NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

volume 10

岸本斉史

The ***Naruto*** comics are already at volume 10! In the blink of an eye, we've reached double digits! Although I doubt that triple digits is a milestone we'll ever achieve, it would make me exceedingly happy if all of you would continue to read and enjoy ***Naruto***, without ever getting bored, for the entire run of the series!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2001

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

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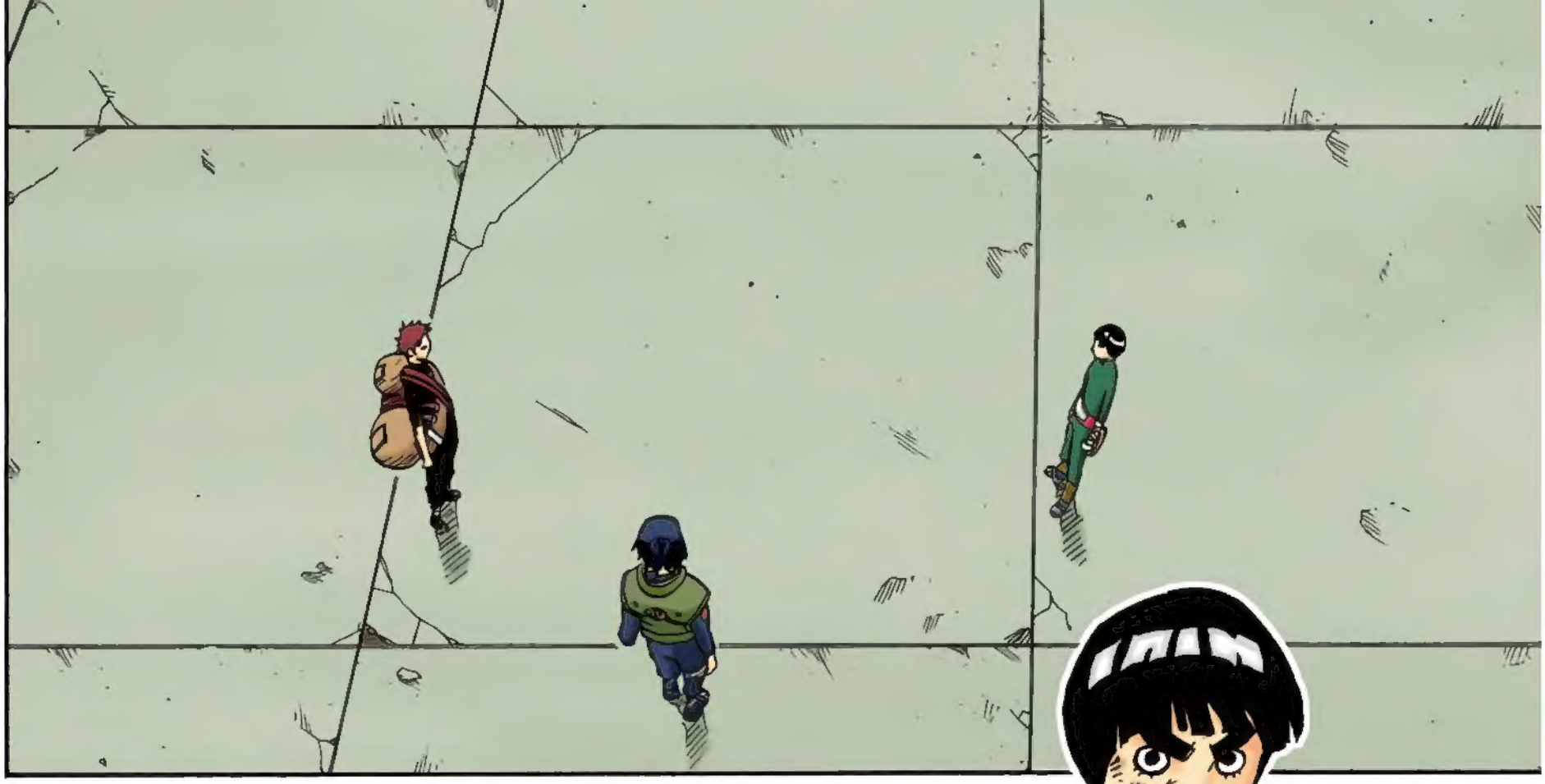
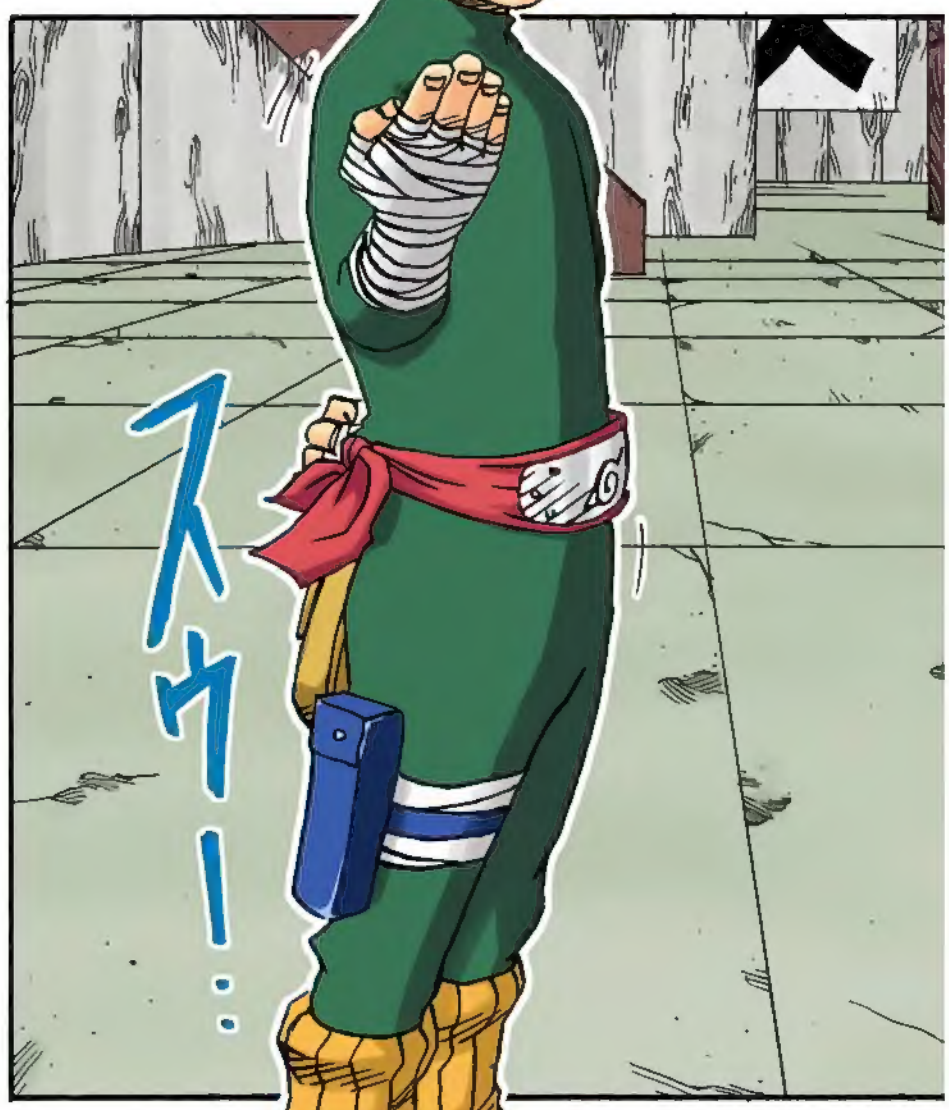
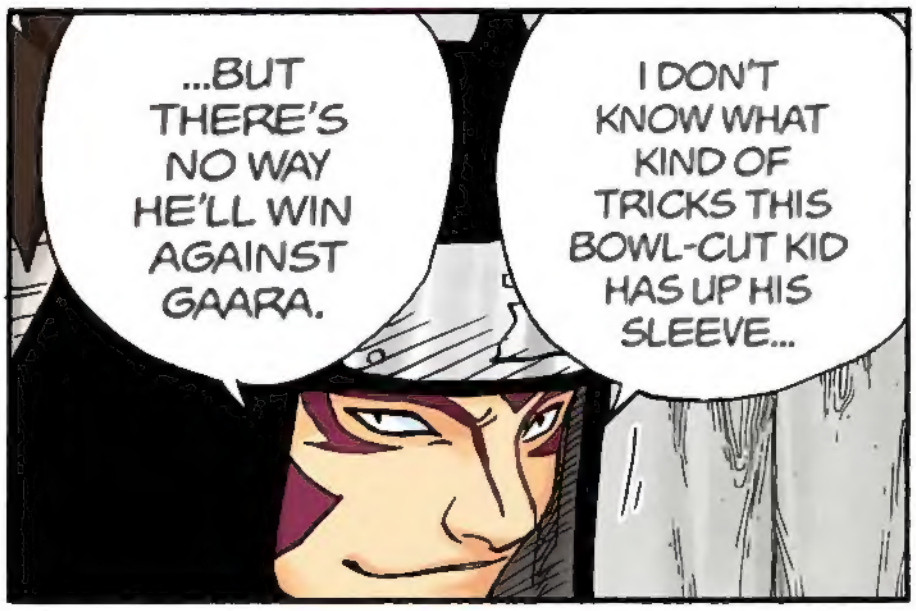
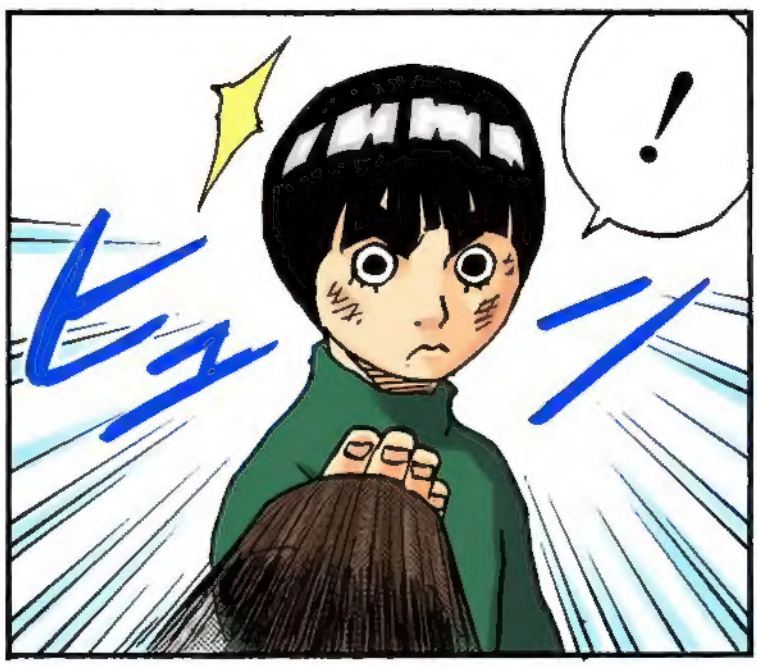
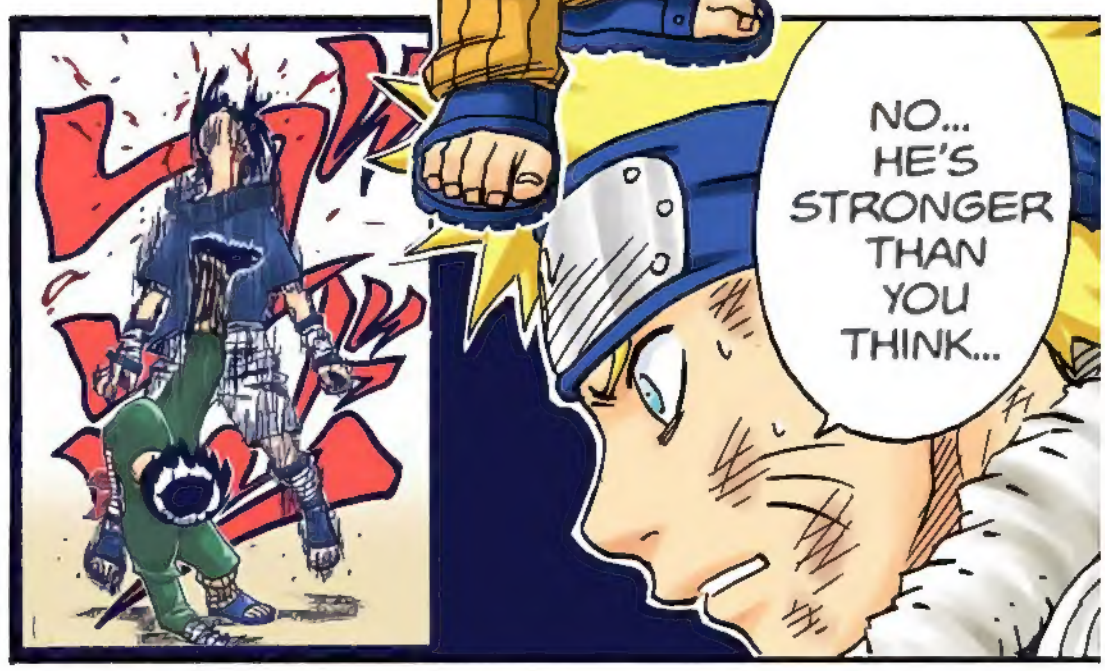
82：LEE'S SECRET!!











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PLEASE... DON'T RUSH THINGS.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. LET THE NINTH-ROUND BATTLE BEGIN!!

.....

"LEE."

WATCH YOUR-SELF...

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!

HEH...HE'S NO MATCH FOR GAARA.

HE MAY BE FAST... BUT HIS KICK WASN'T ANY-THING SPECIAL.

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KONOHA HURRICANE!!!

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!!

!!

!!

……

…SAND …?!

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AGH!

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DAR
N!

THE GOURD WAS FULL OF SAND?!

WHAT A CURIOUS TECH-NIQUE...

SAND?!

HE'S MANI-PULATING SAND?!

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FAST AS HE IS, LEE IS GETTING NOWHERE!

DARN!

WITHOUT EVEN MOVING A MUSCLE...

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THAT'S WHY, TO THIS DAY, THERE'S NOT ONE PERSON...

.....?

THE SAND FORMS A SHIELD TO PROTECT HIS BODY...

PHYSICAL ATTACKS ARE WORTHLESS AGAINST GAARA.

HIS ATTACKS JUST AREN'T WORKING!

... INDEPENDENT OF GAARA'S WILL.

...WHO HAS EVER WOUNDED HIM.

TAIJUTSU ARE INEFFECTIVE AND PAINFUL AGAINST THAT WALL OF SAND. HE NEEDS TO USE NINJUTSU AND START ATTACKING FROM A DISTANCE!

WHY IS LEE ONLY USING TAIJUTSU?!

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UNH!

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!?

...WHAT?!

HUNH?

IT'S NOT THAT LEE WON'T USE NINJUTSU...

...IT'S THAT HE CAN'T.

WHEN I FIRST MET LEE, HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE... AND NO TALENT OR ABILITY WHATSOEVER!

A-ARE YOU JOKING? THEN HOW HAS HE LASTED THIS LONG?!

...LEE HAS PRACTICALLY NO NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU ABILITIES...

!

THERE AREN'T MANY NINJA WHO CAN USE NEITHER NINJUTSU NOR GENJUTSU...

THAT'S WHY THE ONLY MOVES HE'S BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP ARE TAIJUTSU.

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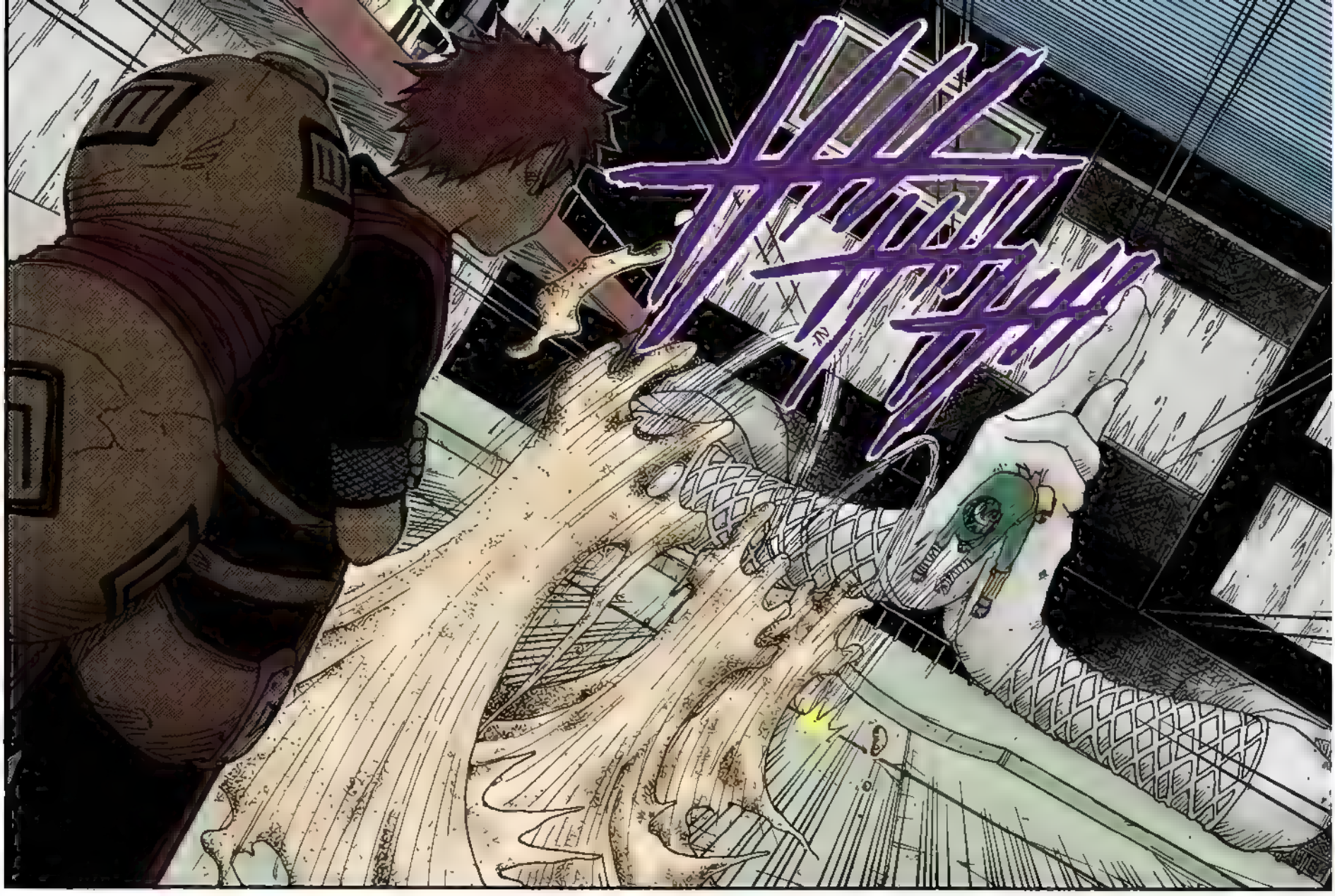

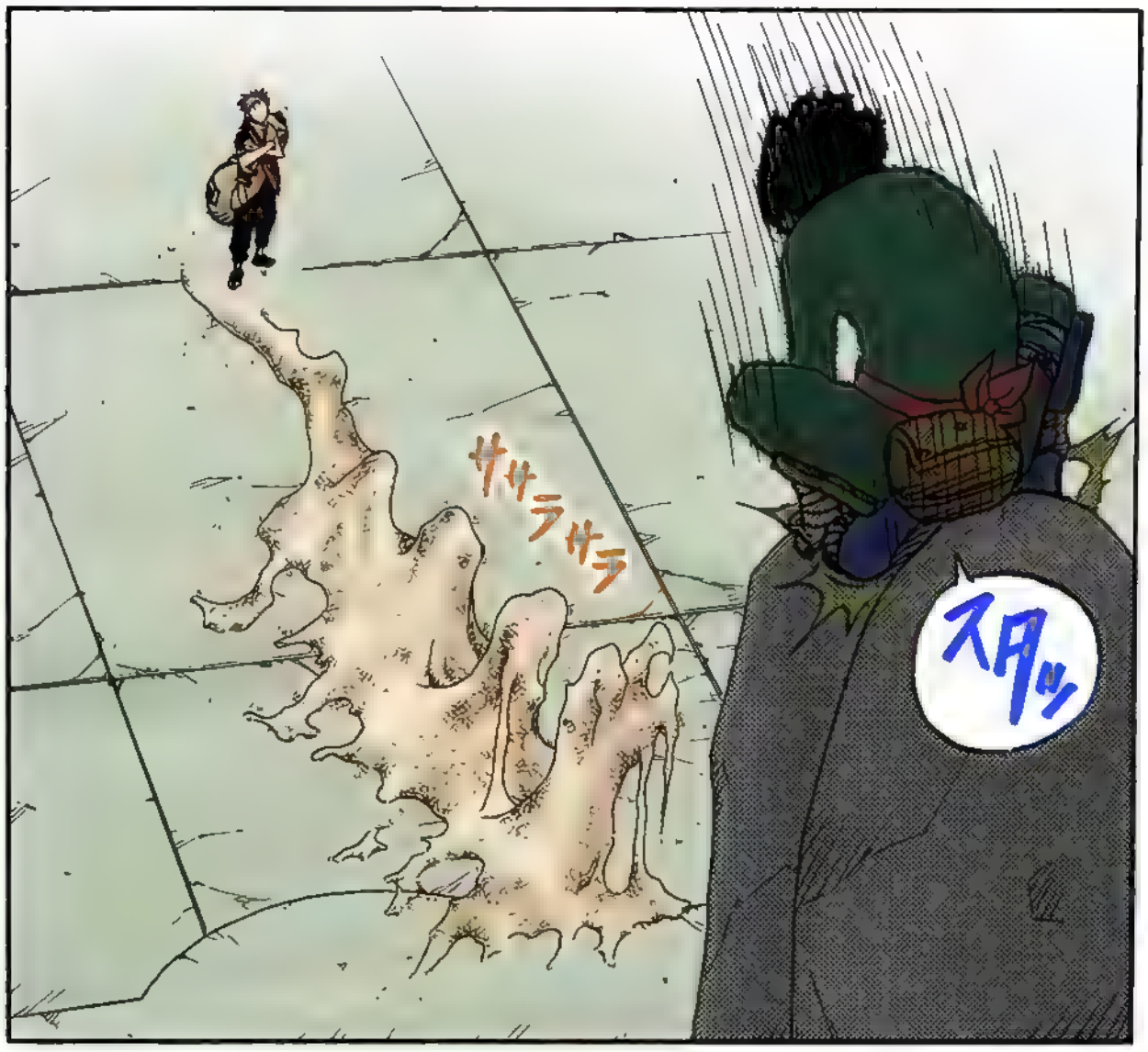

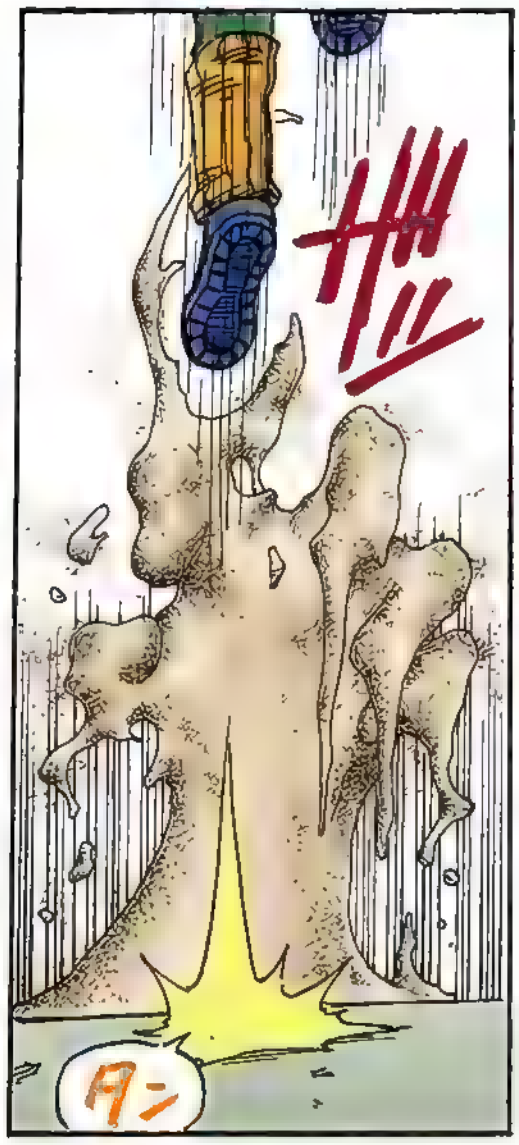

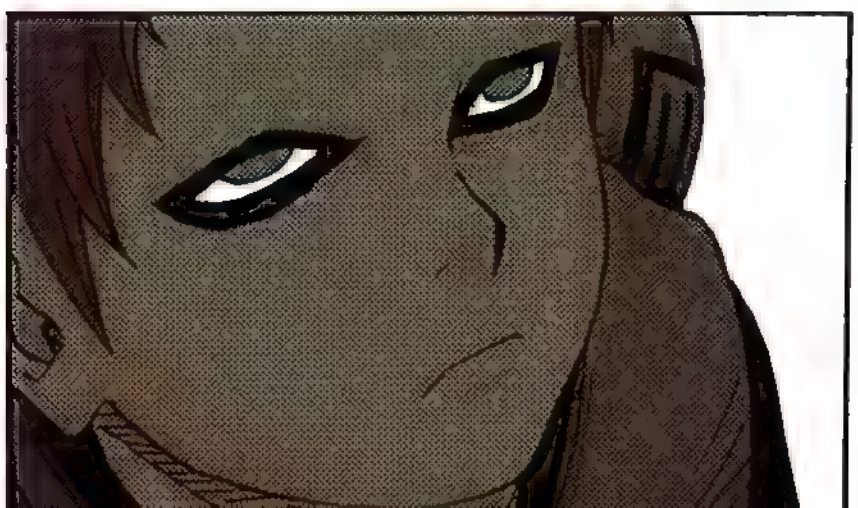

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LEE! TAKE THEM OFF!!

...AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHY LEE CAN WIN!

HM?

HUH?

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……!

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!

!

--NEVER TO DO THAT UNLESS I WAS DEFENDING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO ME!!

B...BUT MASTER GUY! YOU SAID--

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……

I'LL ALLOW IT!!!

IT'S ALL RIGHT!!

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……

AHA... HA HA HA...

THE CHARACTERS BELOW SAY "KONJÔ," MEANING "GUTS," "TRUE GRIT" OR "WILLPOWER."

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OH, GUY... THE MOST SICKENINGLY SWEET, SENTIMENTALLY TRADITIONAL KIND OF TRAINING!

...WEIGHTS?

……!

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I SEE!

HOW DUMB!!

...WILL LET YOU KEEP UP WITH GAARA'S SAND...

HMPH... THERE'S NO WAY DROPPING A FEW WEIGHTS...

NOW I CAN MOVE FREELY!!

RIGHT!!

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GO!!
LEE!!

AREN'T YOU OVER-DOING IT, GUY?
……

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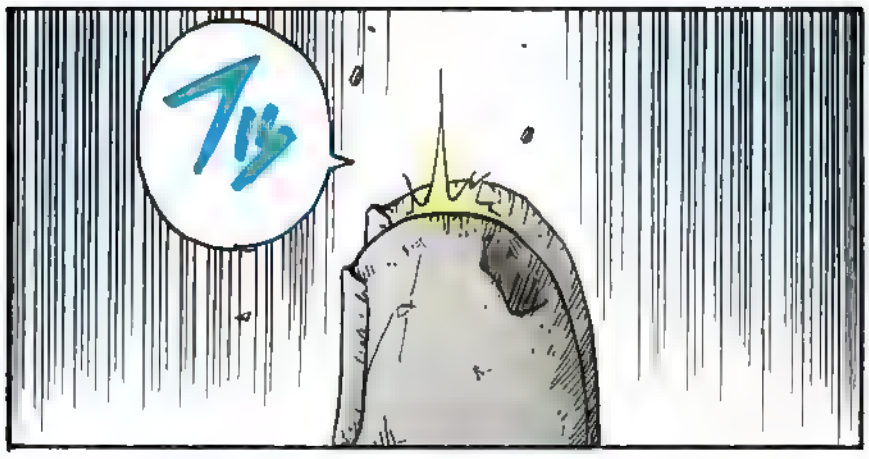

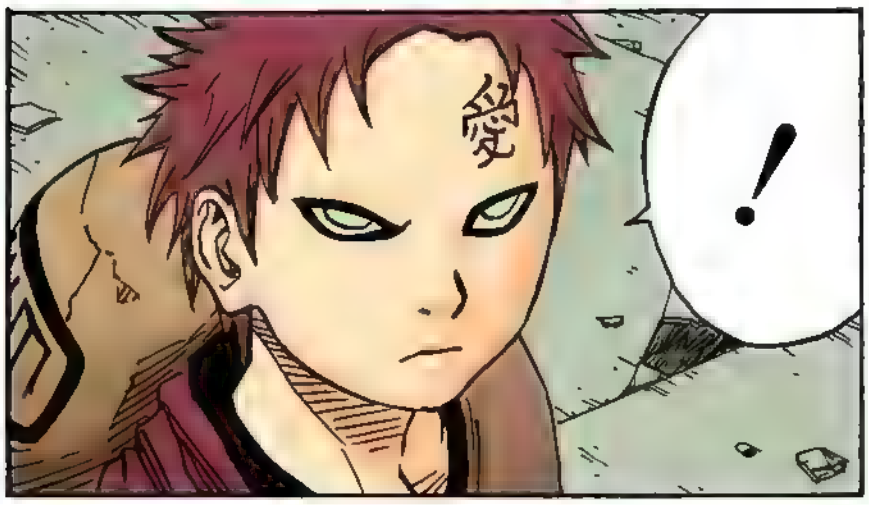

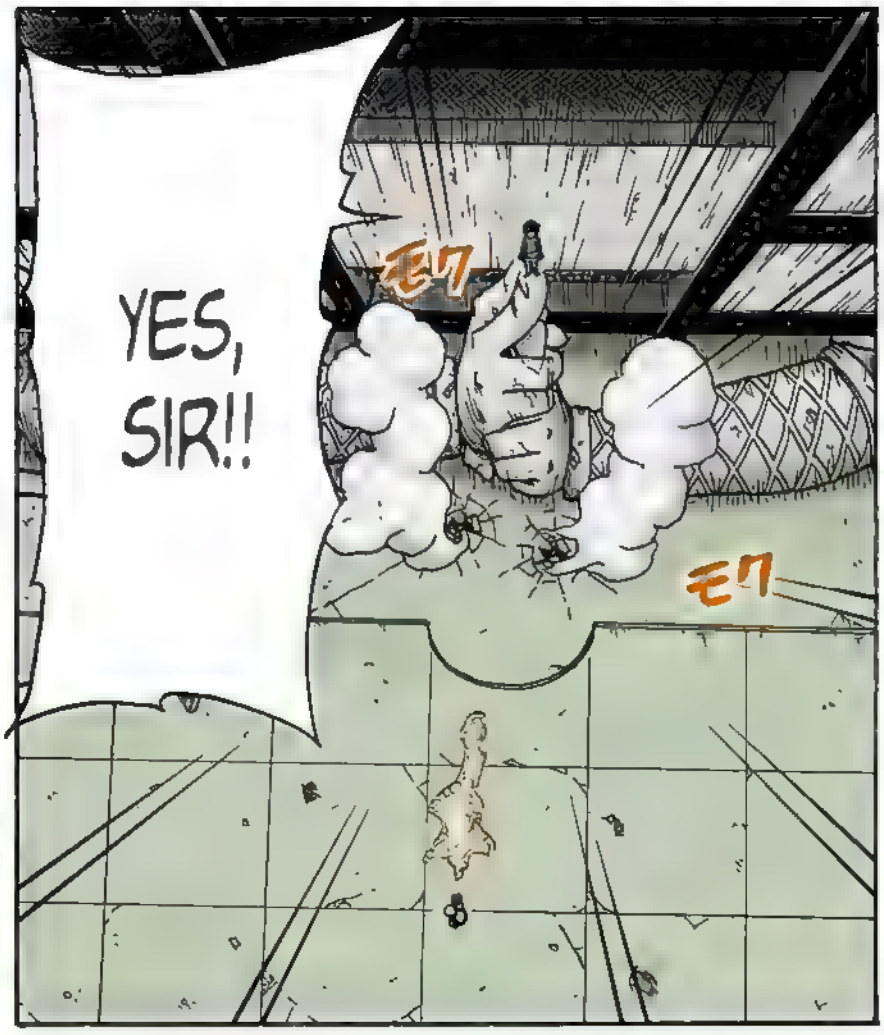

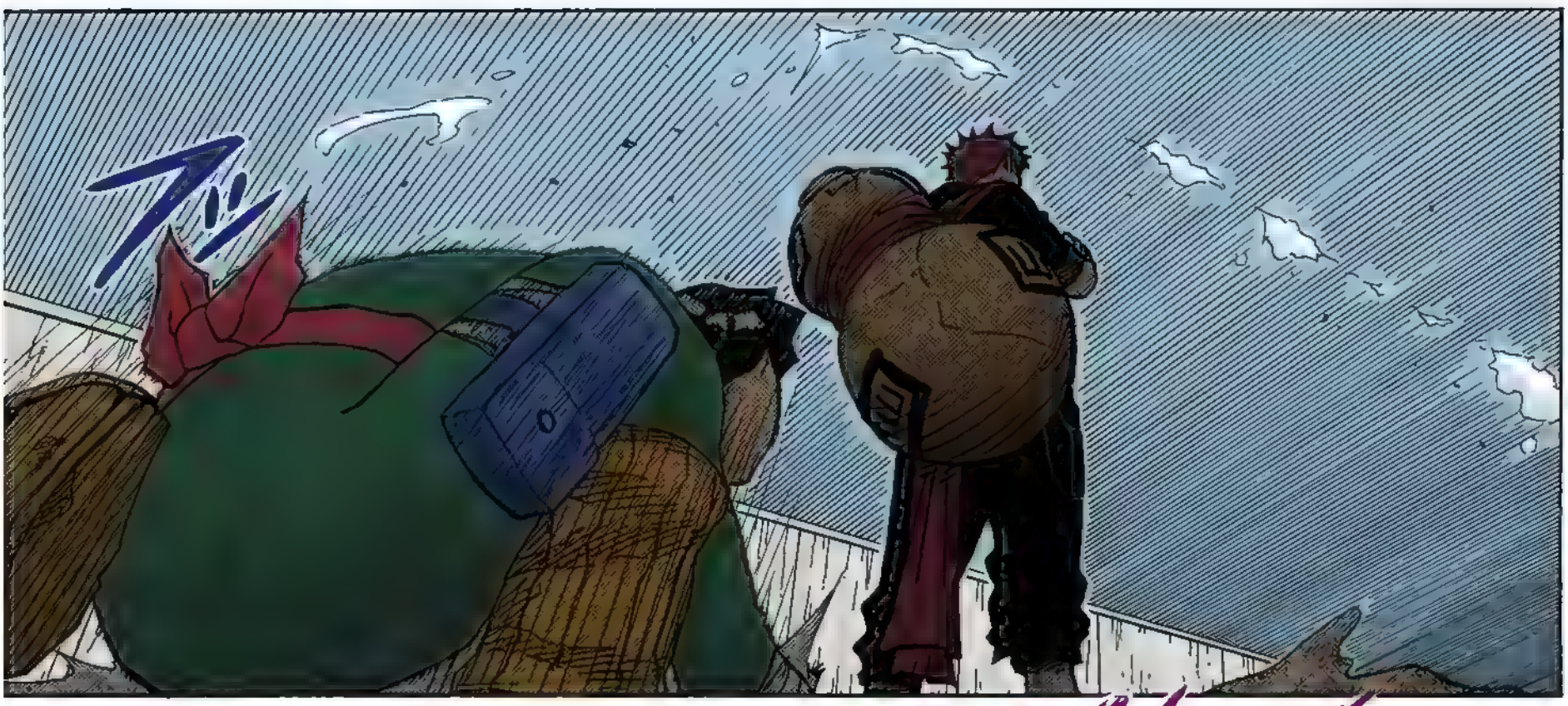

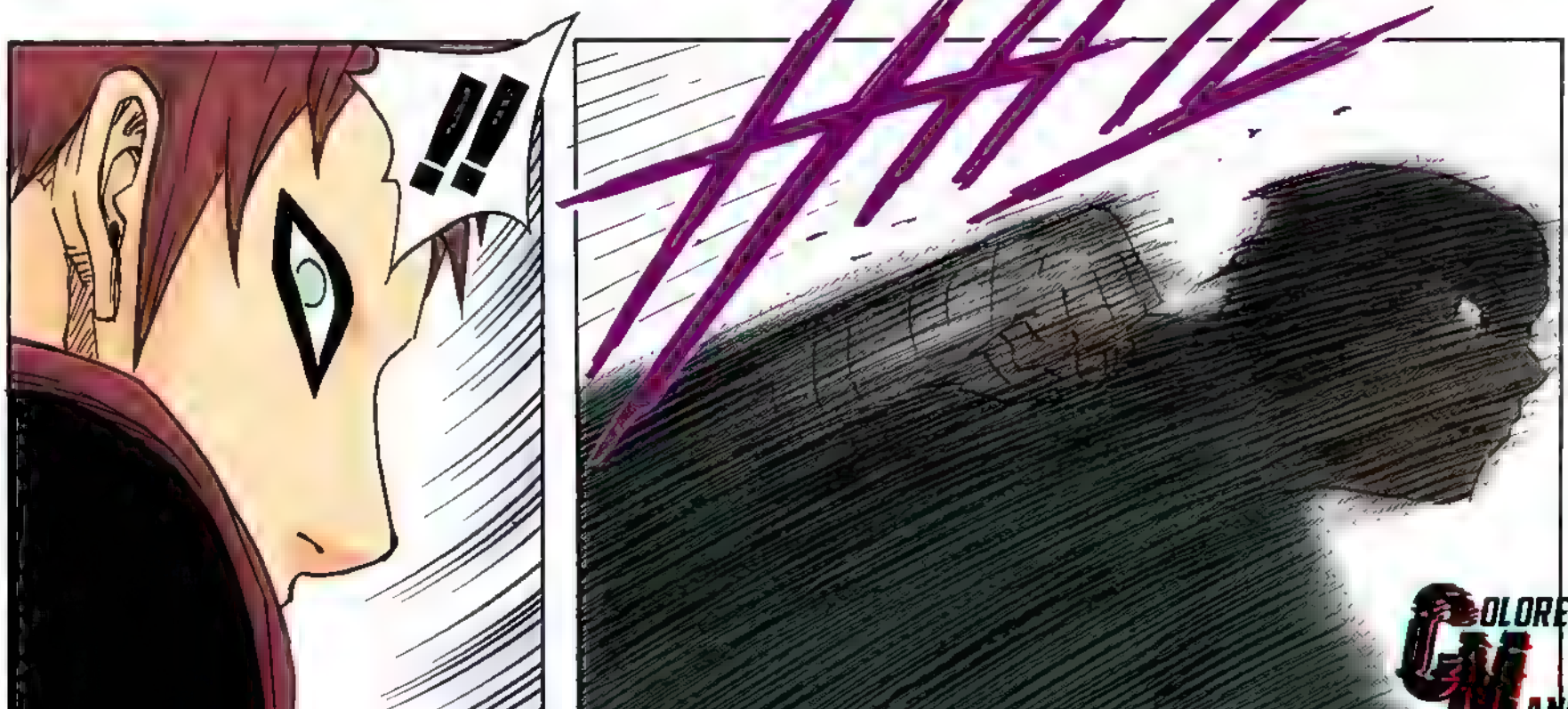

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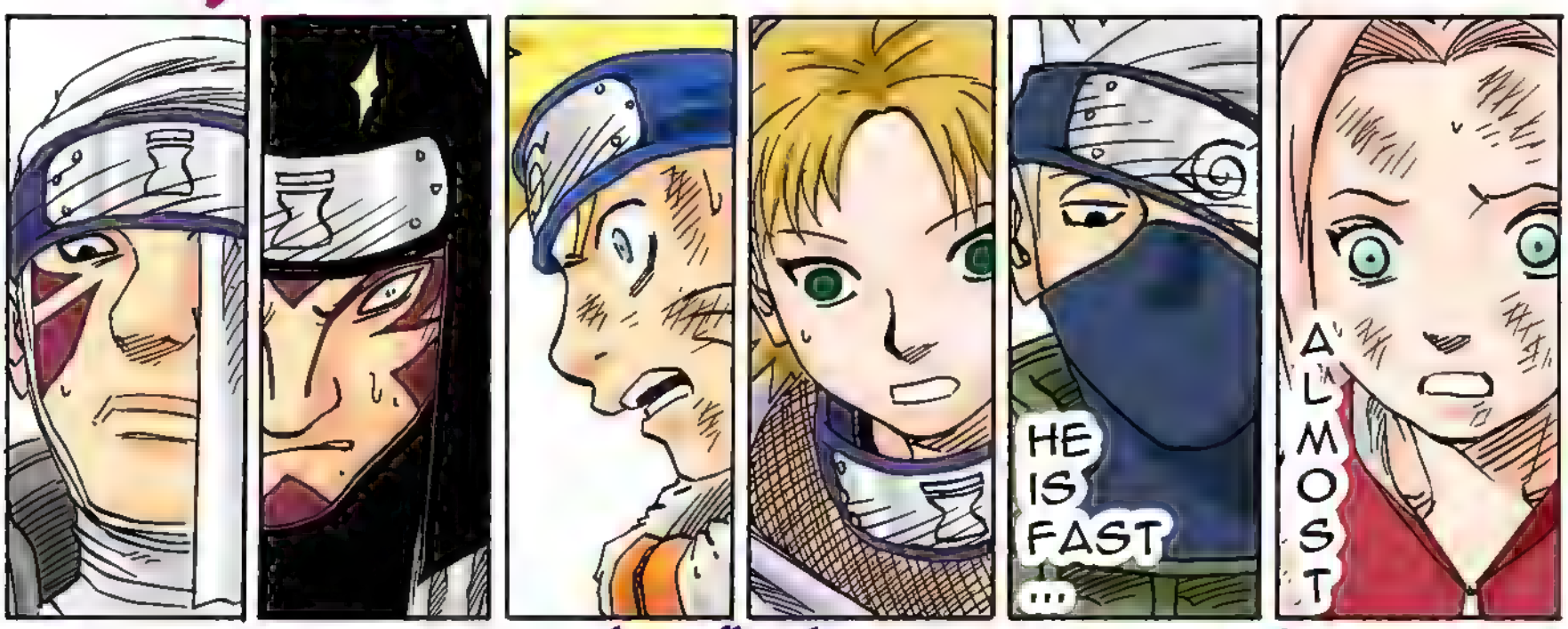

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...THAT LEE DEVOTED HIMSELF SO EXCLUSIVELY TO TAIJUTSU. ALL HIS TIME... ALL HIS ENERGY... ALL HIS FOCUS.

IT'S BECAUSE HE HAD NO APTITUDE FOR EITHER NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU...

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HE'D STILL BE UNBEAT-ABLE...

SO THAT EVEN IF HE LACKED ANY OTHER KIND OF ABILITIES AT ALL...

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!?

...AS A TAIJUTSU SPECIALIST!!

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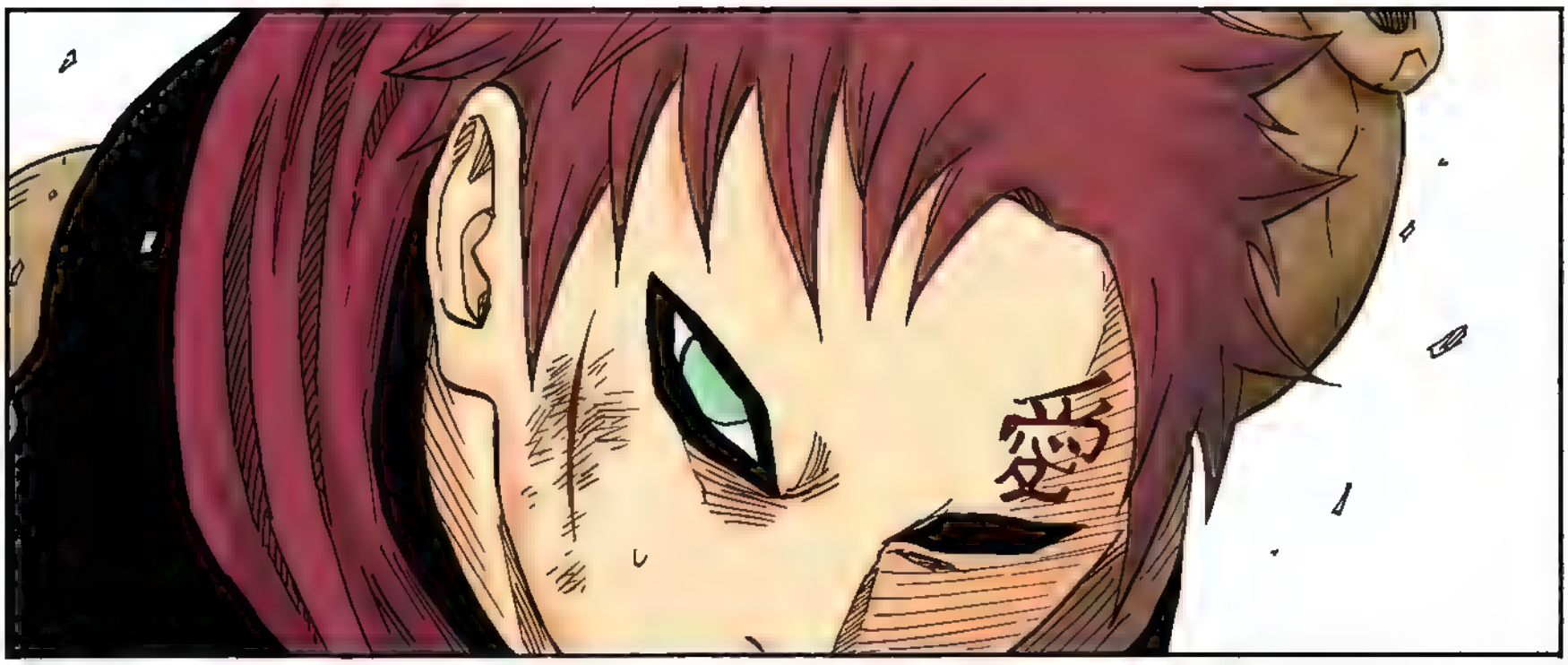

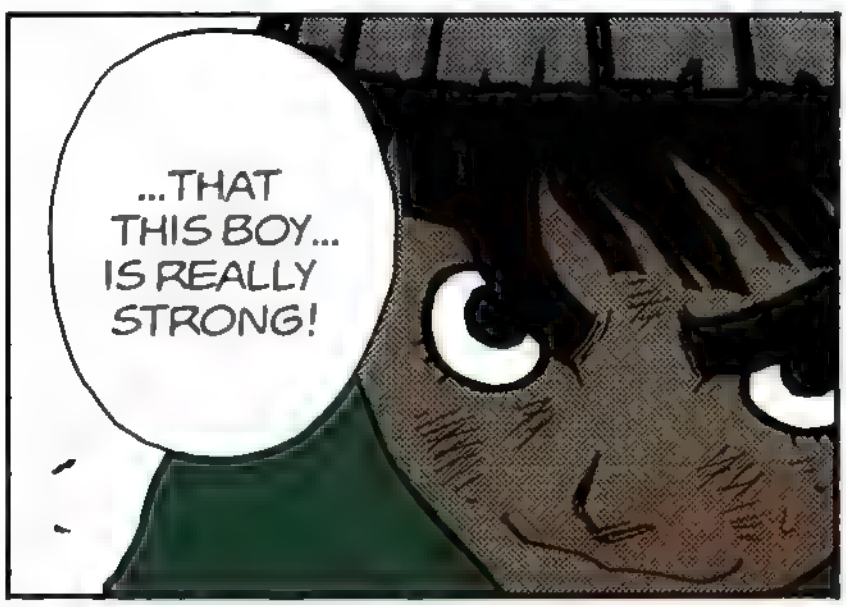

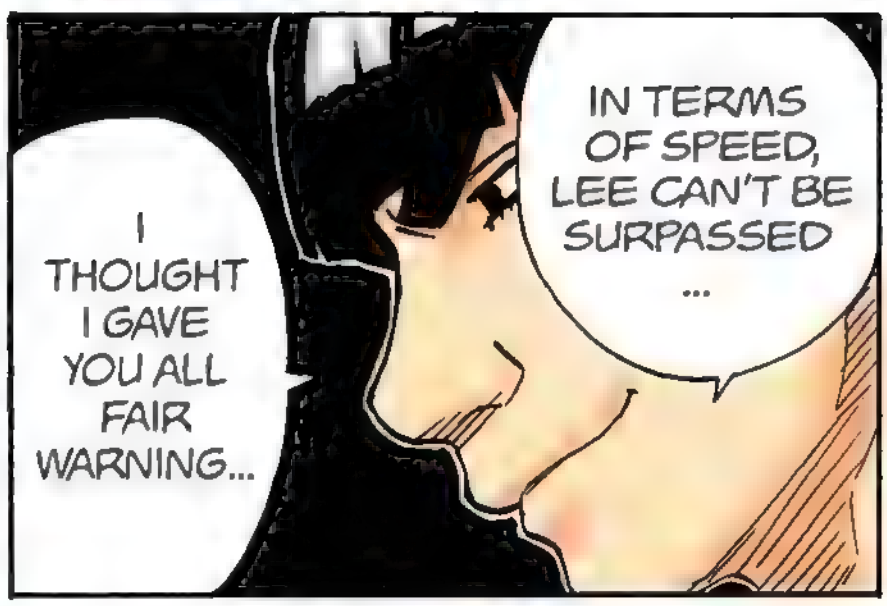

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83 : THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE CRUMBLES?!

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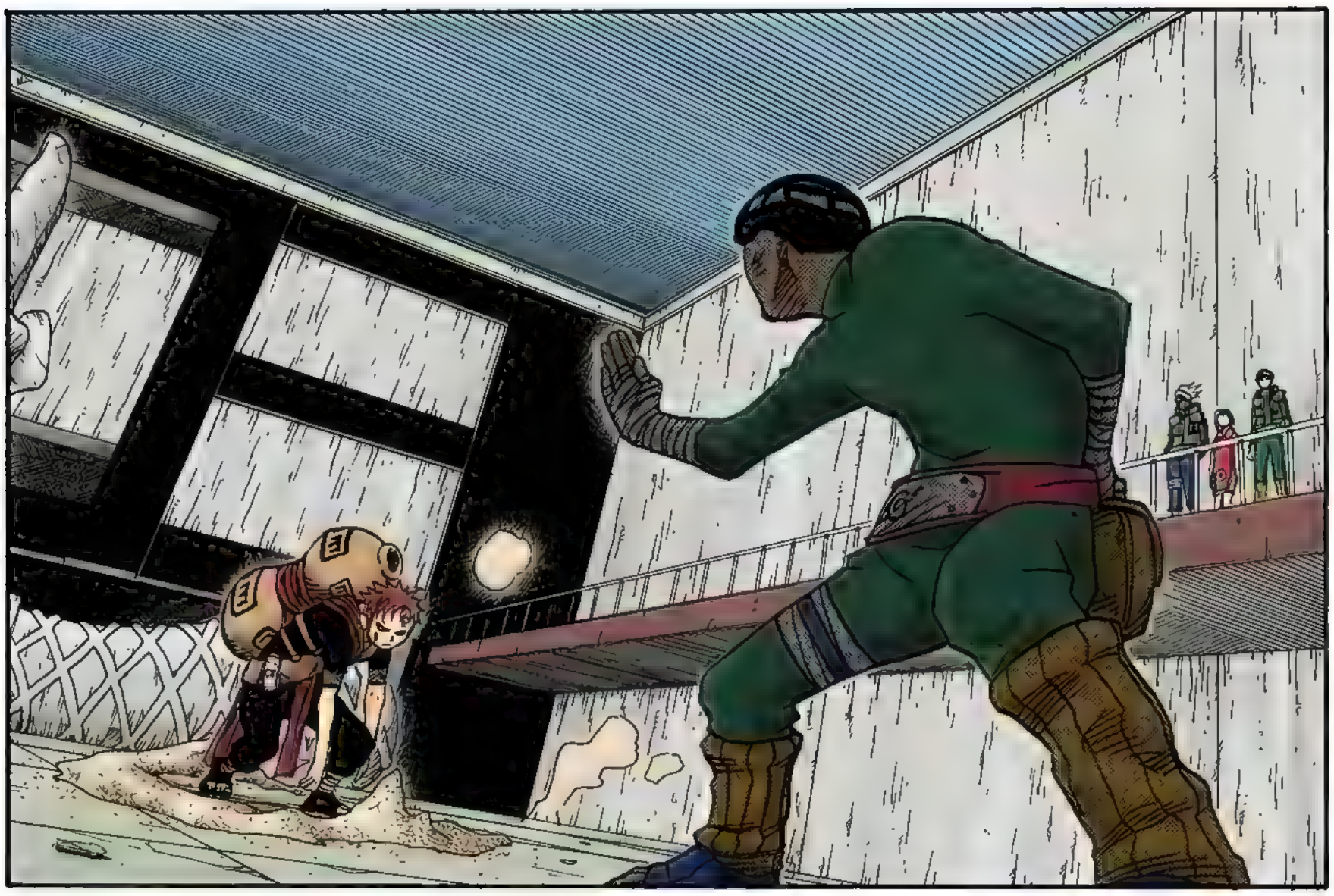

HE REALLY IS STRONG...

BUSHY BROWS HAS GOTTEN EVEN FASTER!!

...NO WAY...

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. HE ACTUALLY MANAGED... TO WOUND GAARA!!

.....!

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YES, SIR!!

NOW... EXPLODE!!!

LEE!!

!!

!

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!

OVER HERE...

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THE SAND BARRIER COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM. IT WAS NO PROTECTION AT ALL!

W...WOW! HE'S SO FAST!

I'M WEAR-ING HIM DOWN!

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HIS MOVES ARE SO FAST, MY EYES CAN'T EVEN TRACK THEM!

W... WOW...

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?

...THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM...

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT! THAT RACCOON-EYED JERK! AFTER THE WAY HE JUST GOT HIT, HE SHOULDN'T EVEN STILL BE STANDING!!

...THIS IS BAD...

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!?

.....

...WHAT...?!

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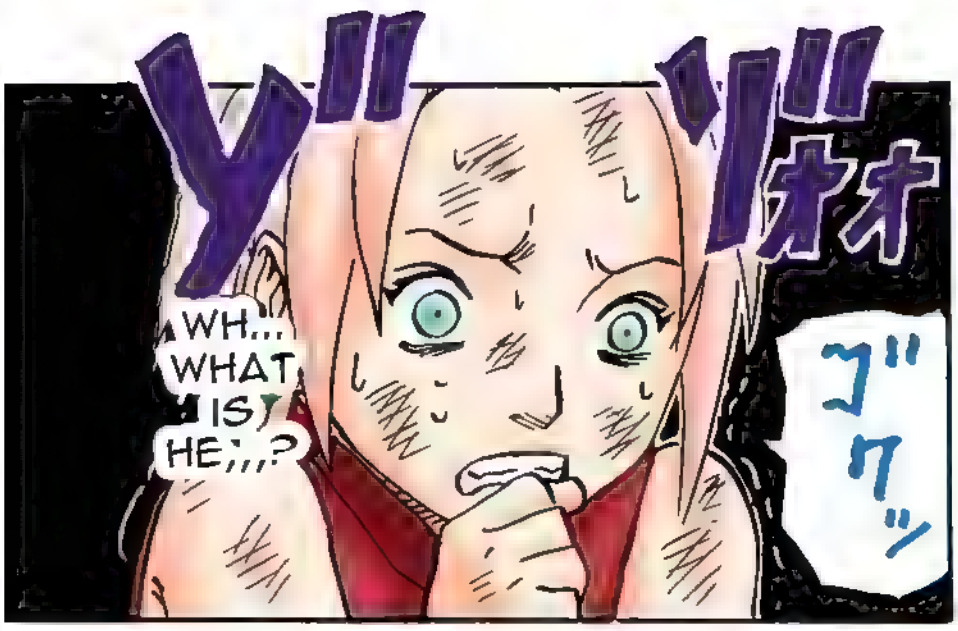
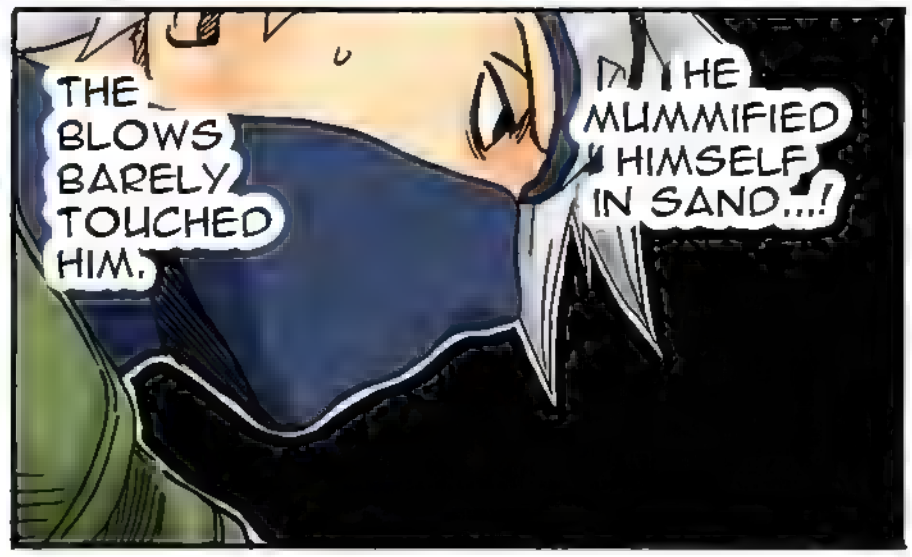
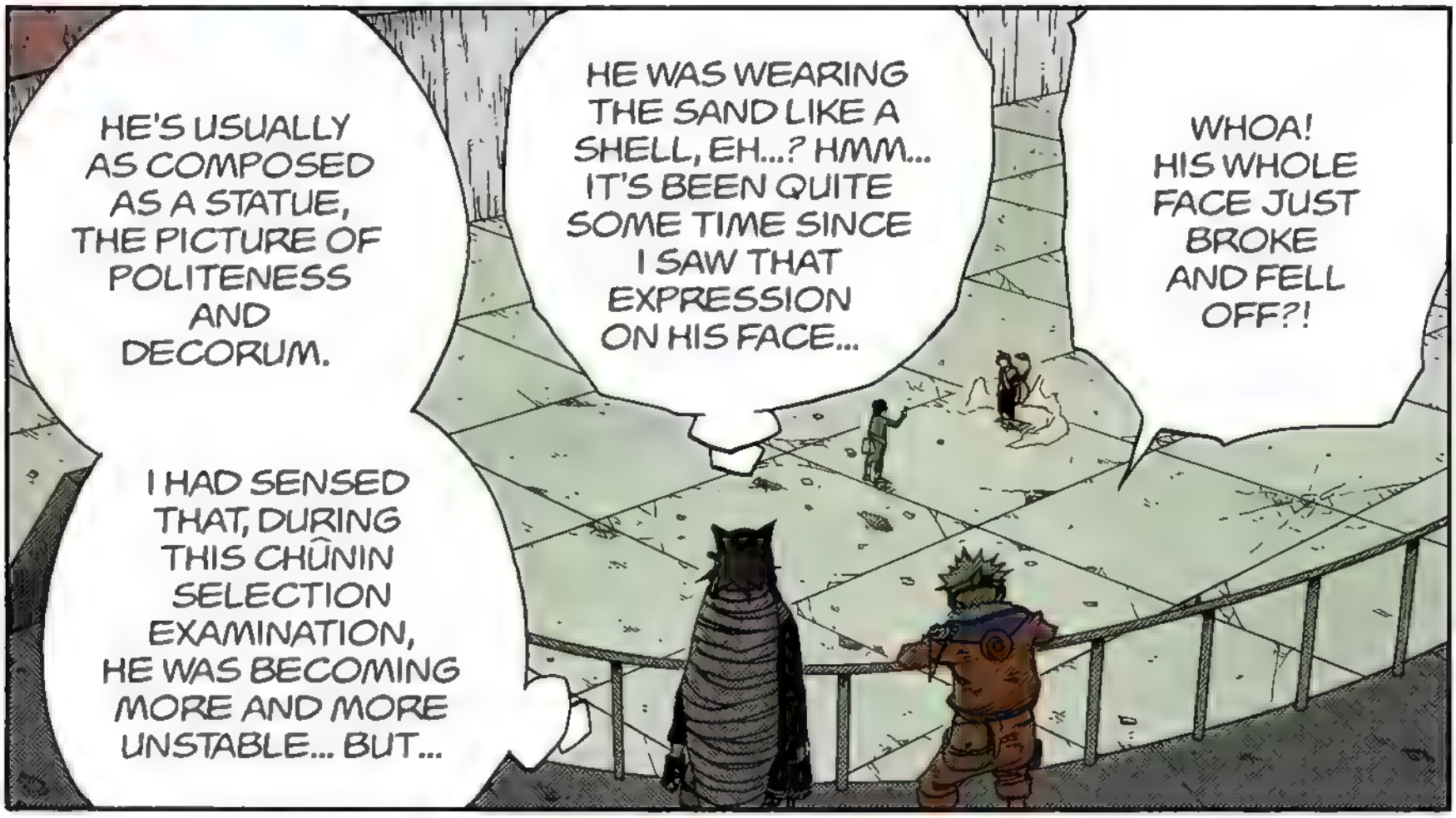
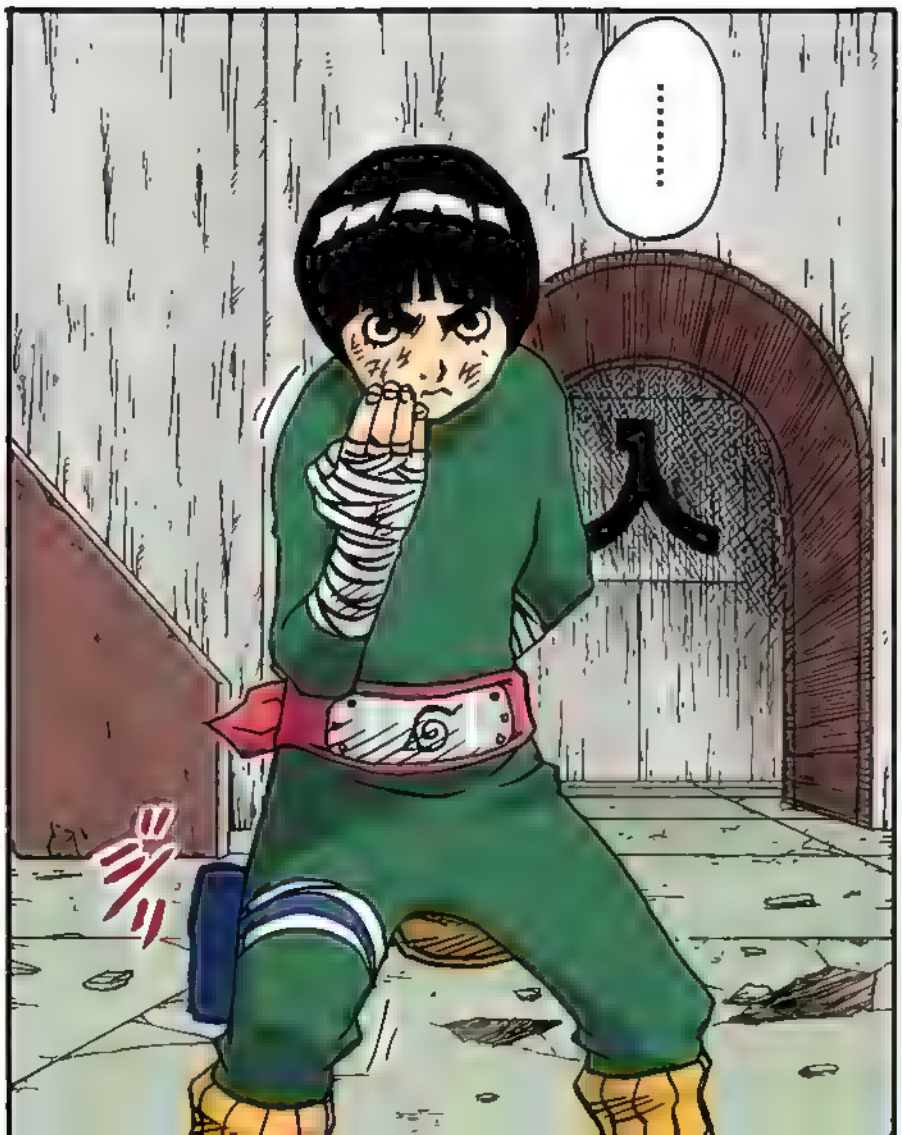
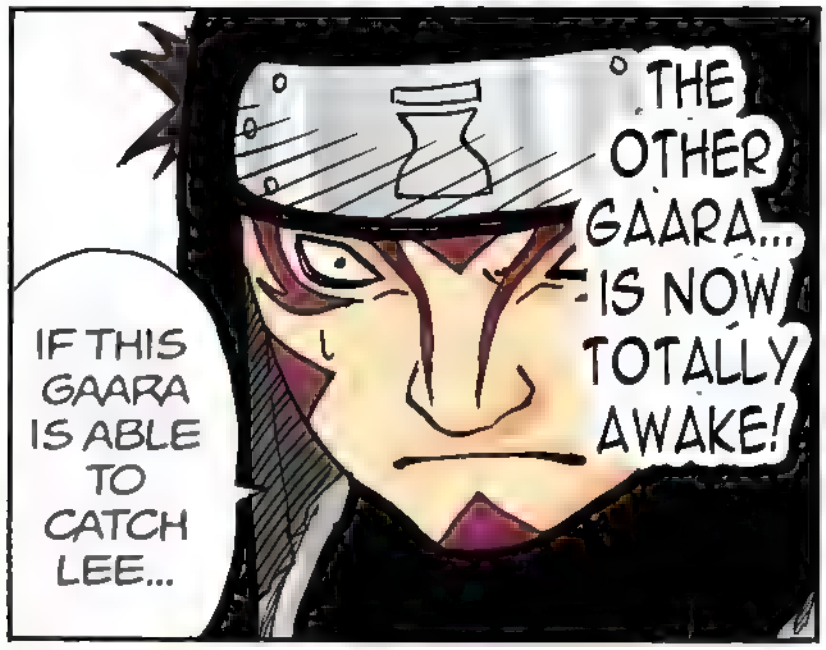





HE'S USUALLY AS COMPOSED AS A STATUE, THE PICTURE OF POLITENESS AND DECORUM.
I HAD SENSED THAT, DURING THIS CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAMINATION, HE WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE UNSTABLE... BUT...
HE WAS WEARING THE SAND LIKE A SHELL, EH...? HMM... IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE I SAW THAT EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...
WHOA! HIS WHOLE FACE JUST BROKE AND FELL OFF?!





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……!

...LEE WILL BE TOYED WITH AND THEN KILLED!

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IS IT SOME WAY OF PROTECTING HIMSELF FROM BUSHY BROWS?!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT?! WHAT'S HE...?

IT'S SAND ARMOR.

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IT DIFFERS FROM THE SAND SHIELD, WHERE THE GRAINS AUTOMATICALLY FLOW TO FORM A PROTECTIVE BARRIER...

YES. GAARA CAN CREATE A THIN SHELL OF SAND TO COVER AND PROTECT HIS ENTIRE BODY, CONTROLLING IT BY THE FORCE OF HIS WILL.

SAND FIELD

SAND ARMOR

...ARMOR?

...THEN... THERE'S NOTHING LEE CAN DO!

IT'S GOT NO WEAKNESSES...!

...ULTIMATE DEFENSE!

IT'S GAARA'S...

IT'S HIS PROTECTION OF LAST RESORT...

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY TRUE THE SAND ARMOR IS ACTUALLY RIDDLED WITH WEAK POINTS...A

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ITS DEFENSIVE STRENGTH IS LESS THAN THAT OF THE SAND SHIELD... AND SINCE THE SAND ITSELF IS LYING AGAINST HIS SKIN, IT INCREASES THE WEIGHT OF HIS BODY SO HE MUST EXPEND MORE PHYSICAL STRENGTH JUST TO MOVE.

IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC THE WAY THE SHIELD IS... IT REQUIRES A MASSIVE OUTPOURING OF CHAKRA.

BUT THE END OF THIS IS A FORE-GONE CONCLU-SION...

THAT LEE IS REALLY SOME-THING!

IF GAARA HAS BEEN DRIVEN TO USING THE ARMOR...

...THEN RIGHT NOW,HIS MIND IS PURELY ON DEFENSE. HE'S BEEN DRIVEN INTO A CORNER...!

!

IS THAT ALL...?

BECAUSE GAARA... IS A GENIUS!!!

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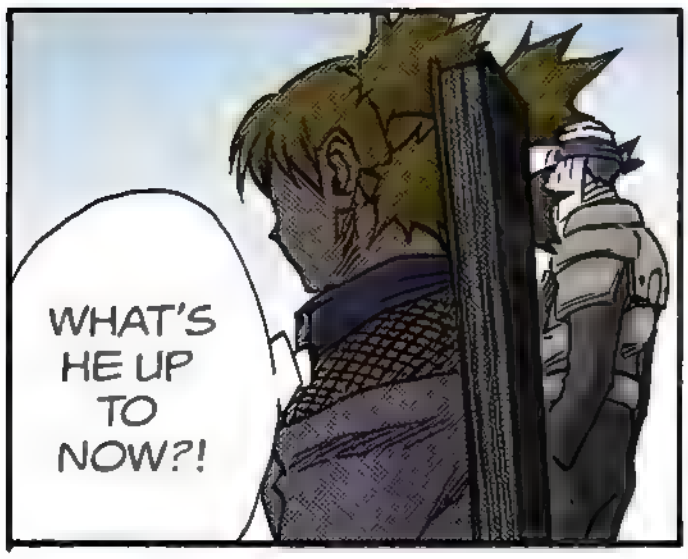
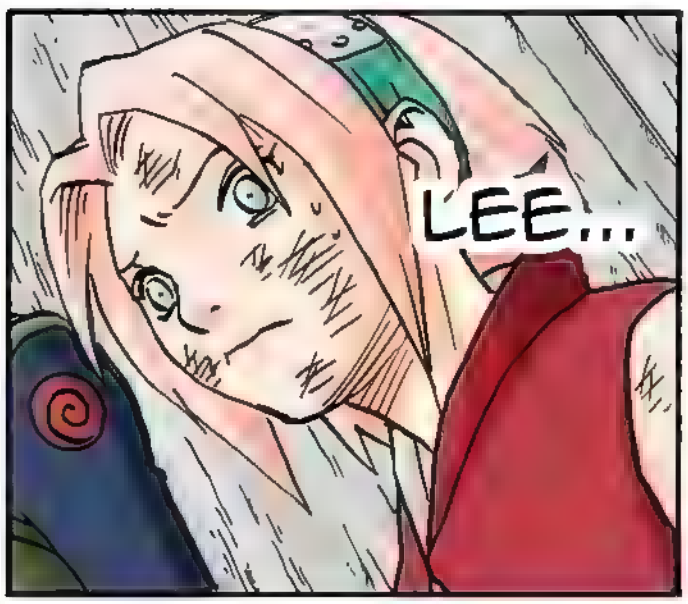
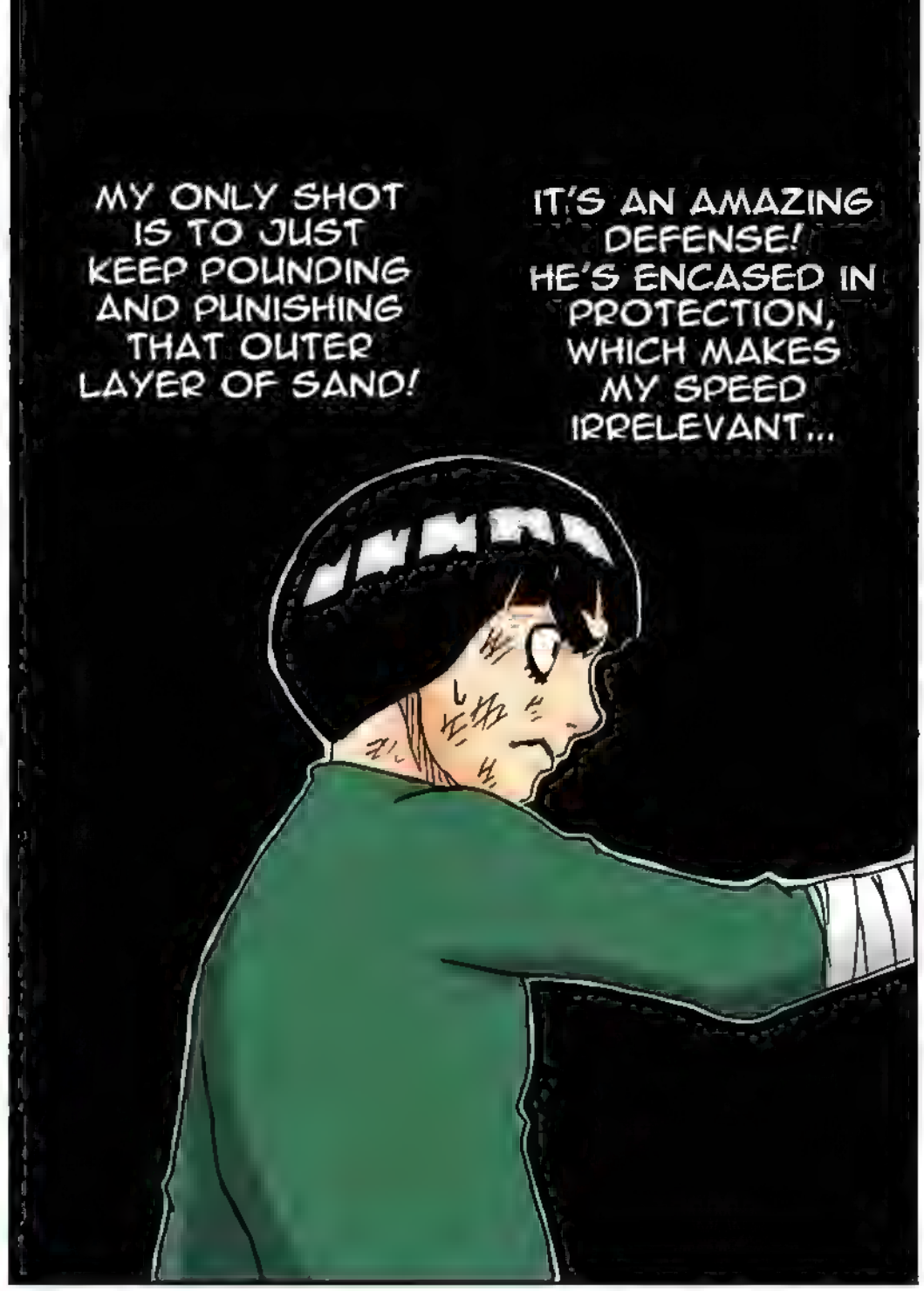
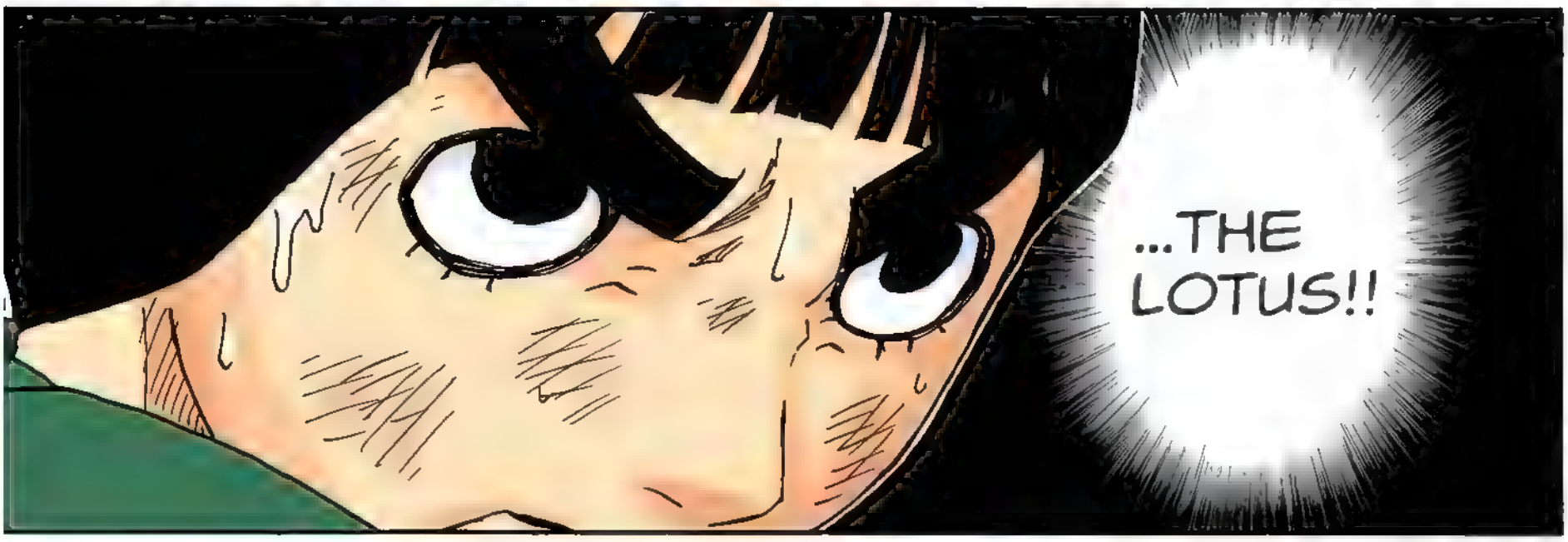
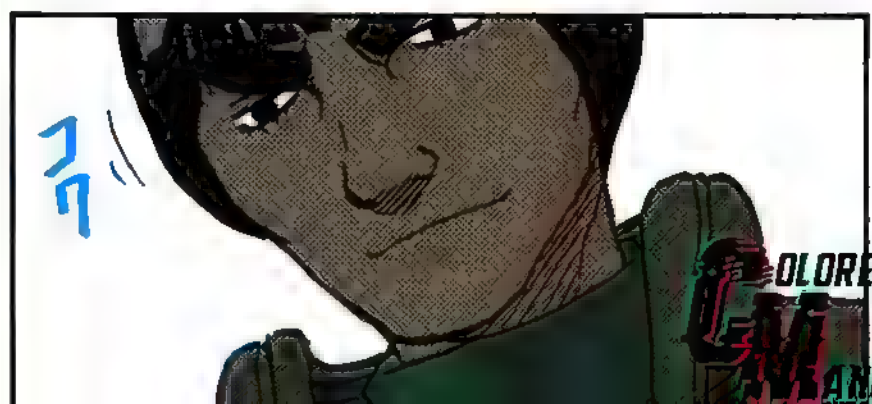

WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW?!


LEE...


MY ONLY SHOT IS TO JUST KEEP POUNDING AND PUNISHING THAT OUTER LAYER OF SAND!
IT'S AN AMAZING DEFENSE! HE'S ENCASED IN PROTECTION, WHICH MAKES MY SPEED IRRELEVANT...


...THE LOTUS!!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A THIN LATER OF SAND WON'T STAND UP TO IT.

THE LOTUS TECHNIQUE WILL LET HIM STRIKE HIS FOE AT HIS SPEED...

!

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COME ON... HURRY UP!

...IN WHICH CASE...!

AND IF IT HAPPENS THAT HE'S WEARING A THICK SHELL OF SAND, IT WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO KICK OUTWARD...

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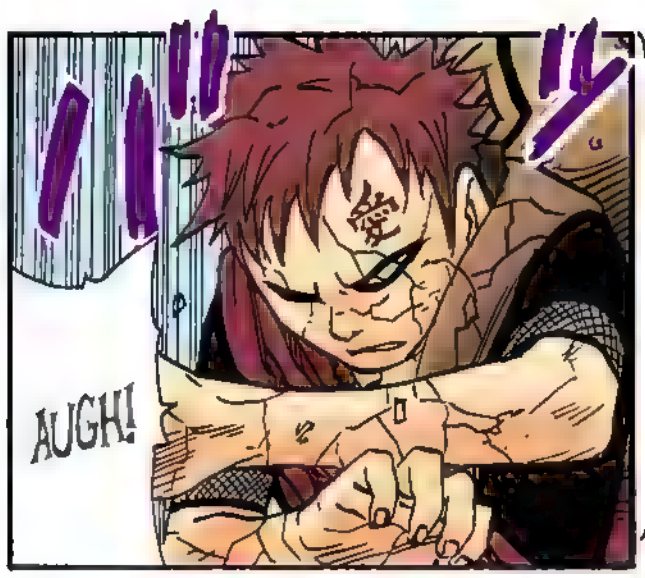

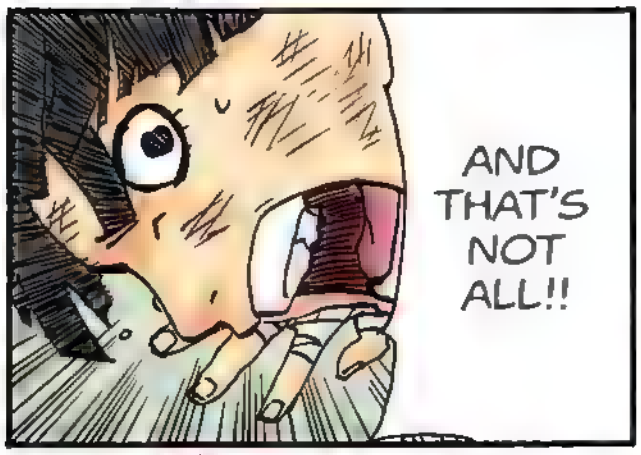

カッカッ!!
カッカッカッカ

THAT MANY CONSECUTIVE KICKS MAY BE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR LEE BETTER MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE A DECISIVE ONE,KID!!

...EVEN AN ORDINARY LOTUS MOVE EXERTS A GREAT STRAIN ON THE USER'S BODY...

!!

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OWW!

GOTCHA!!

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FOR-
WARD
LOTUS

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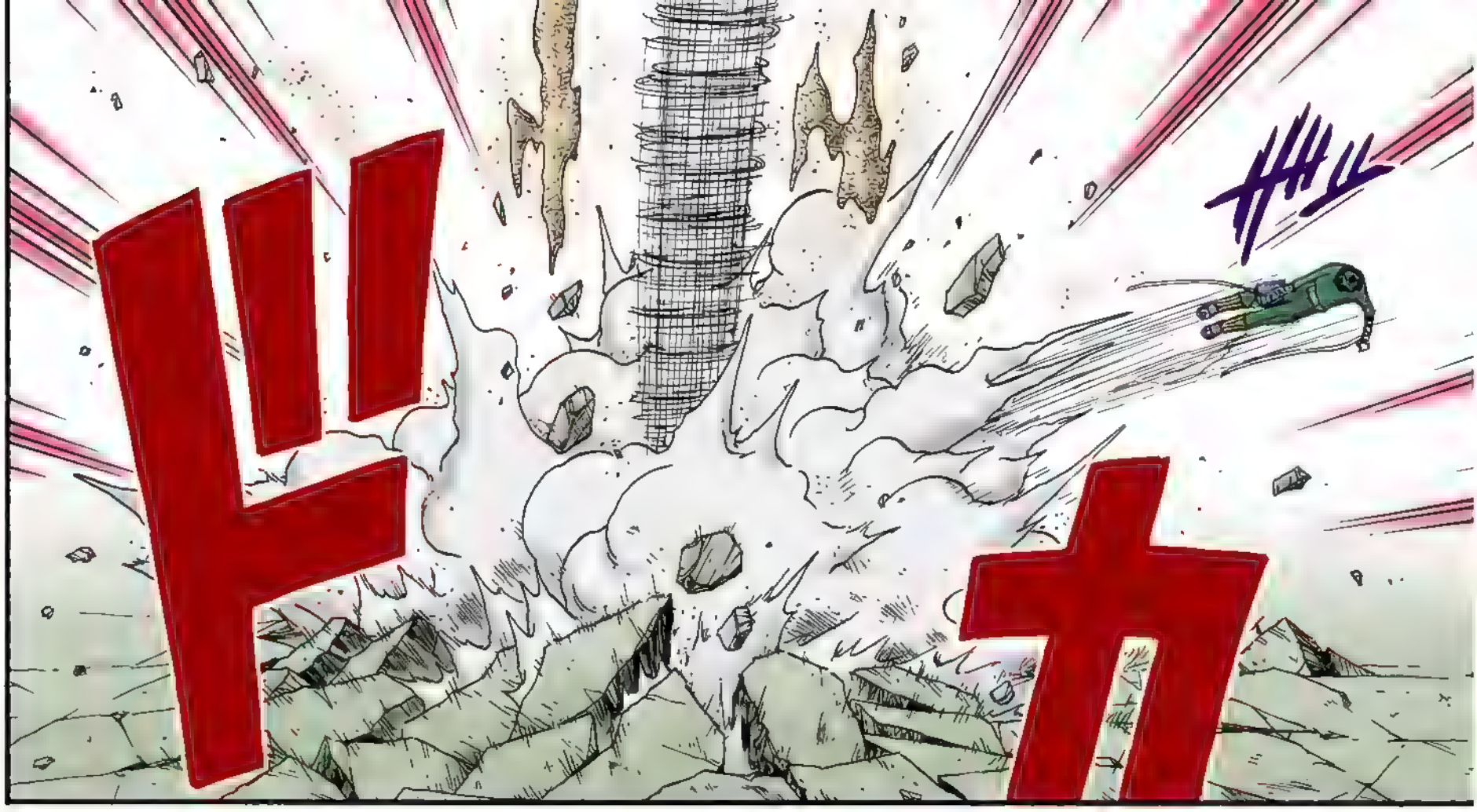

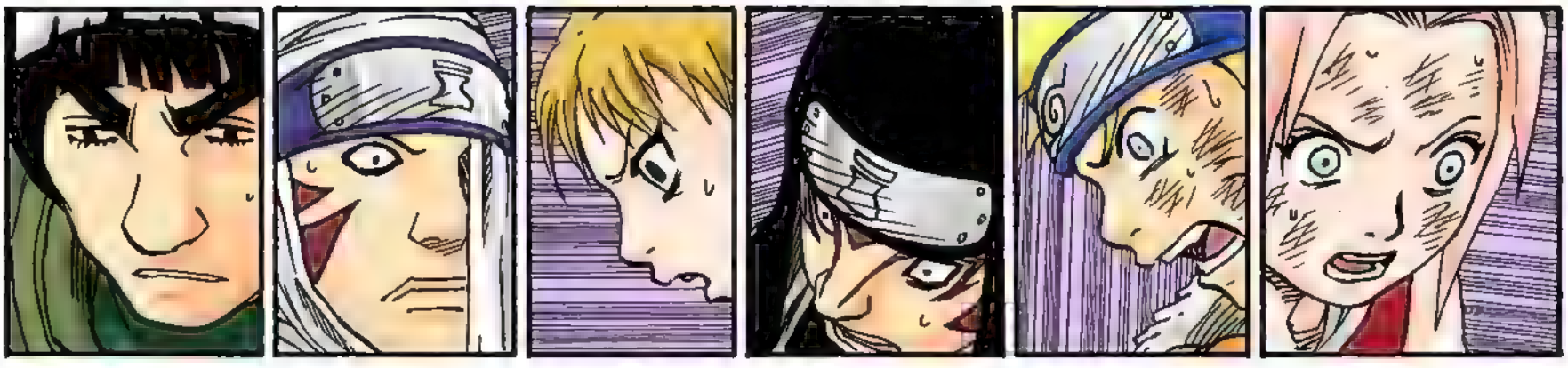

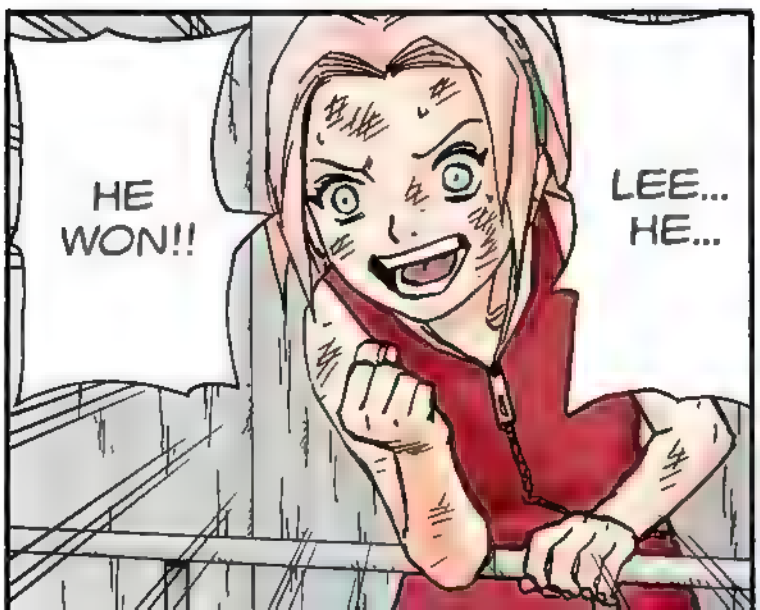

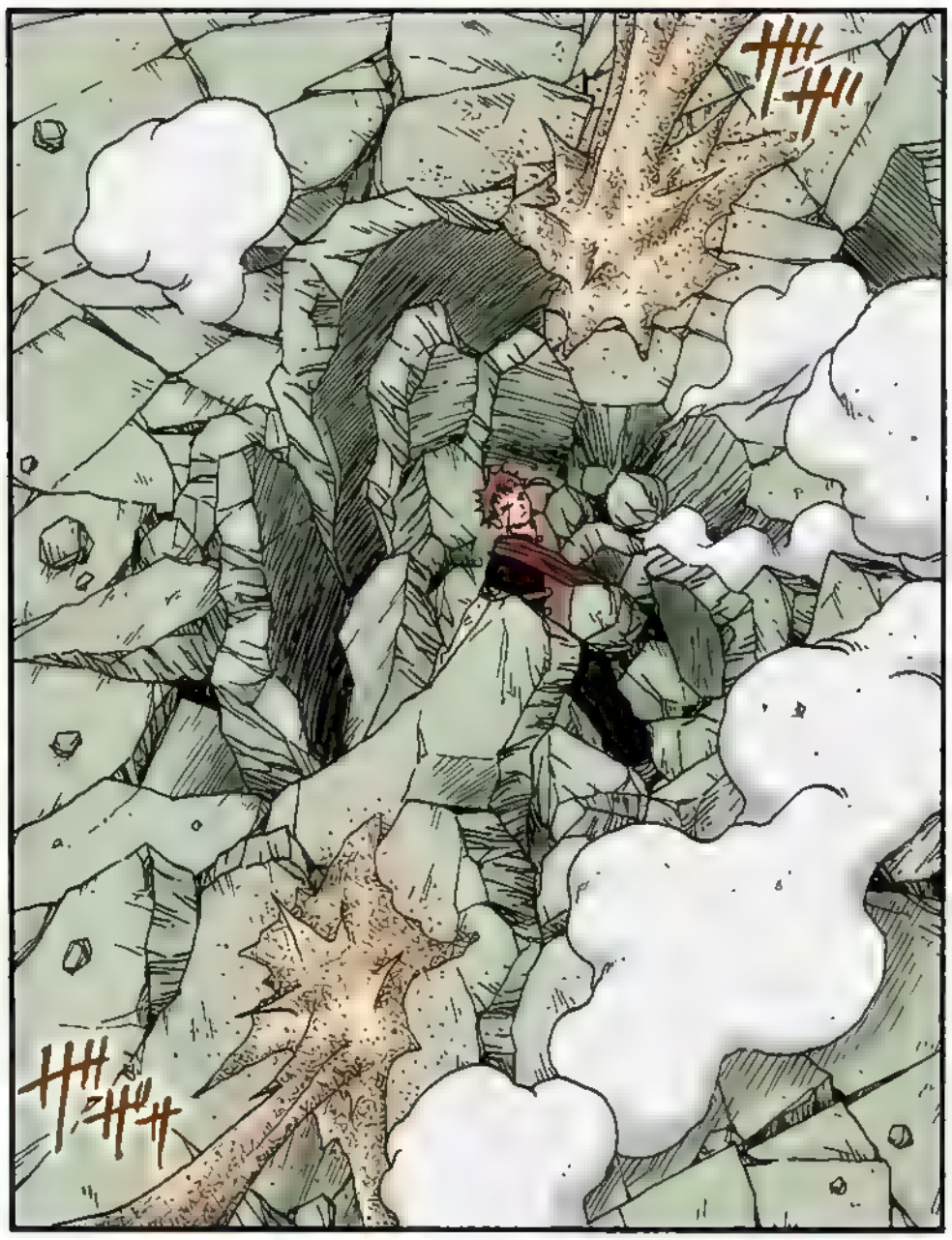

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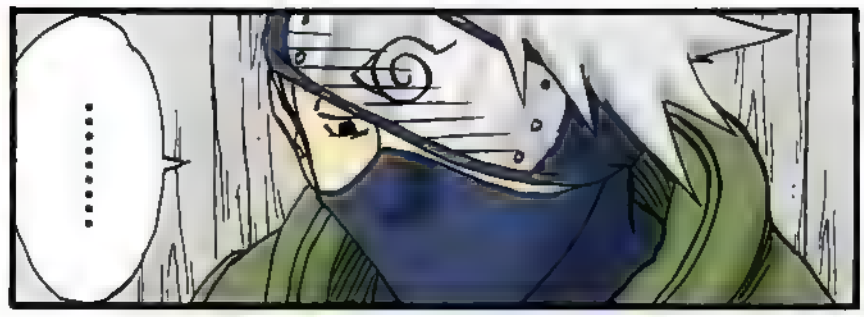

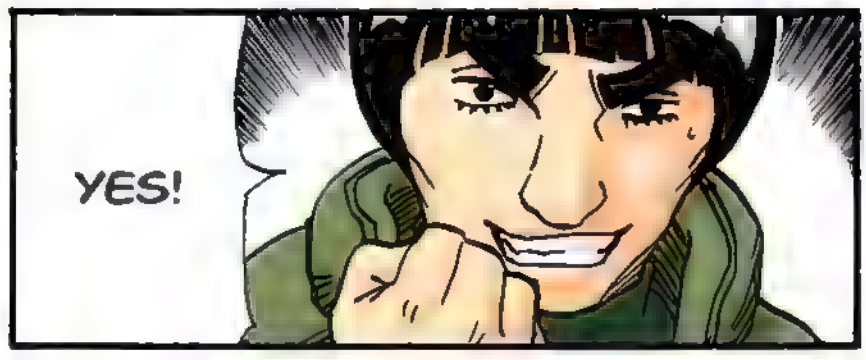

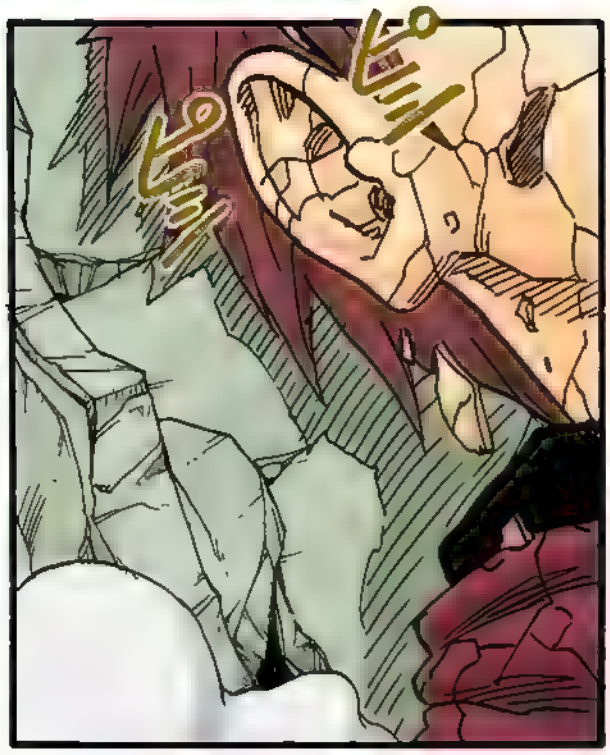

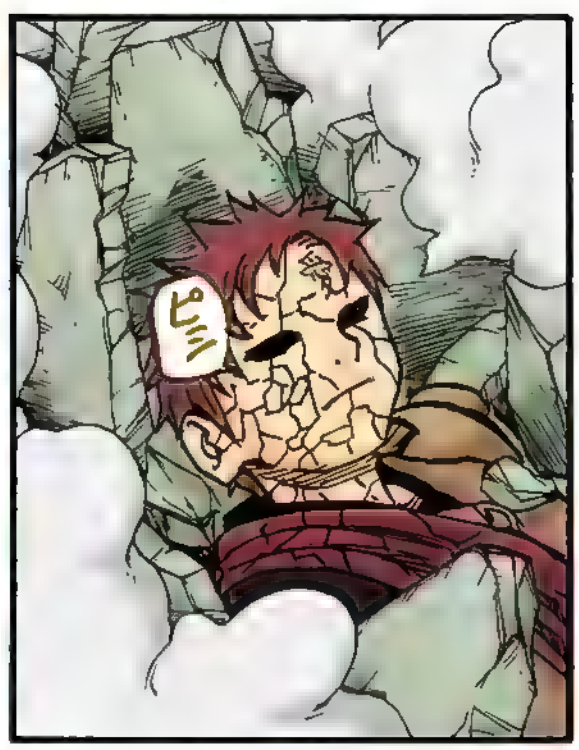

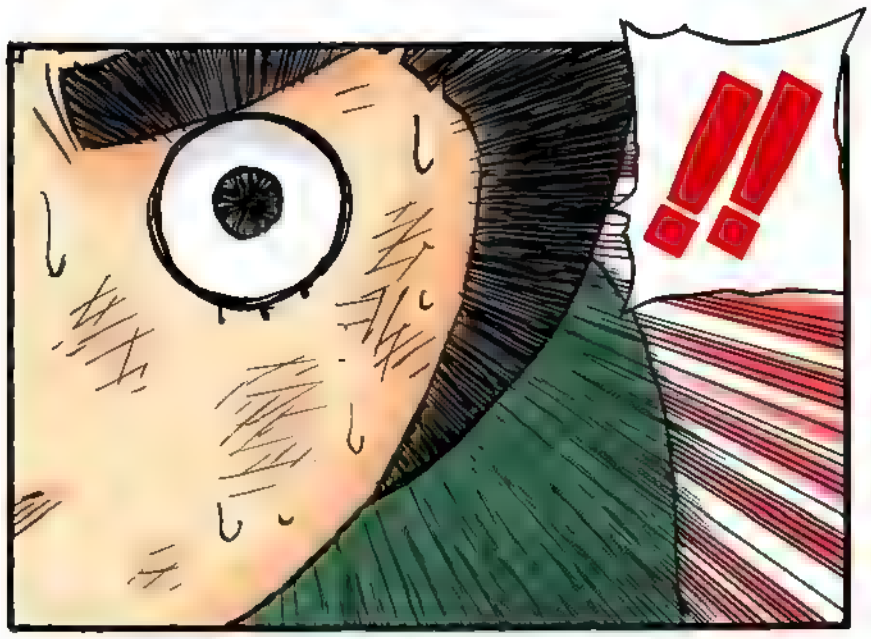

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サラサラ、

LEE PAUSED IN PAIN FOR JUST A MOMENT... AND THAT'S WHEN...

IT HAPPENED WHEN YOUR EYES WERE CLOSED IN PRAYER, GUY.

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN PAST LEE!!

!

...WHEN DID HE SLIP OUT OF THAT SHELL?!

!!

ズ"ザ"ザ"ザ"ッ

HEH HEH HEH...

ムクッ

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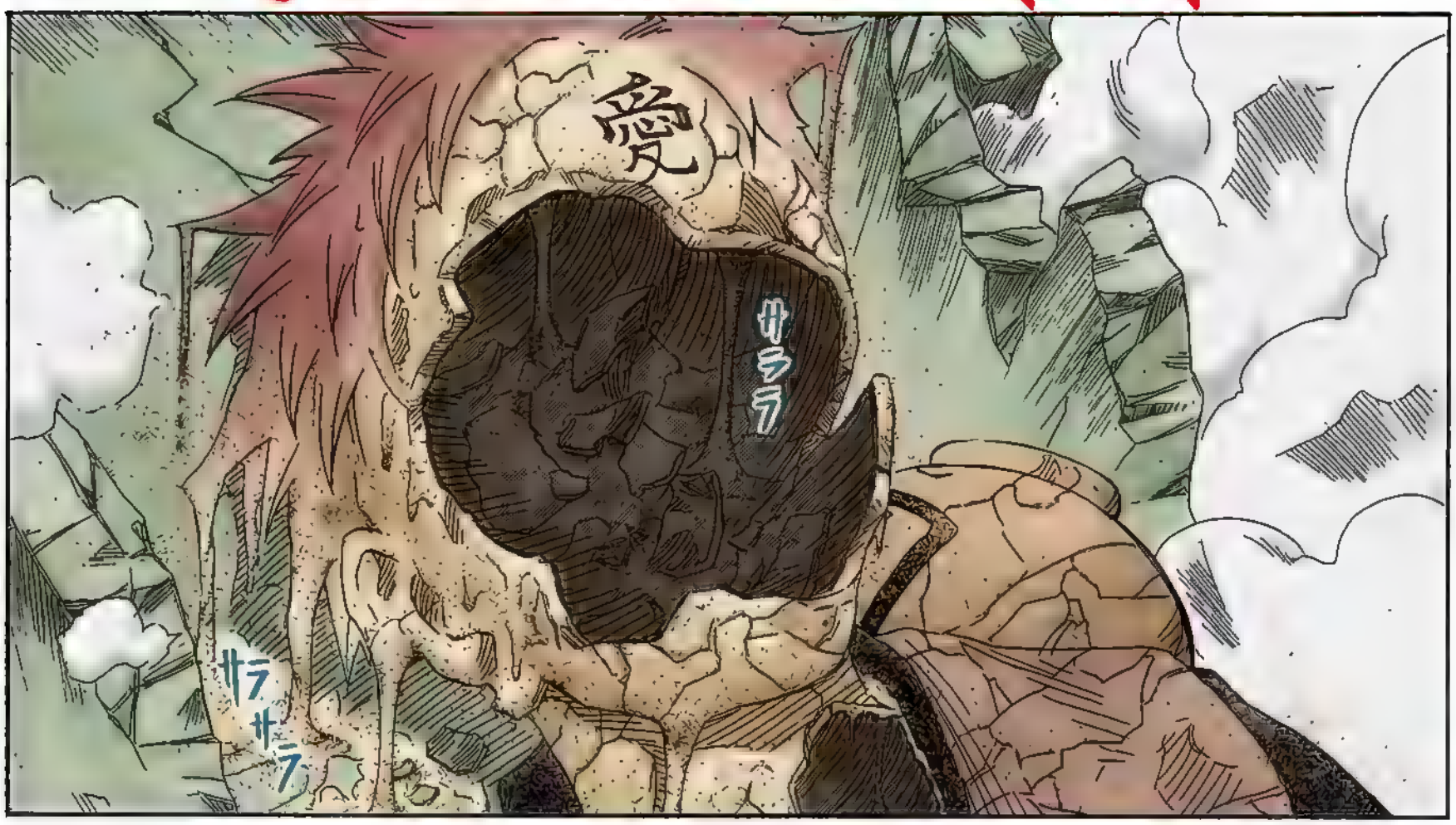
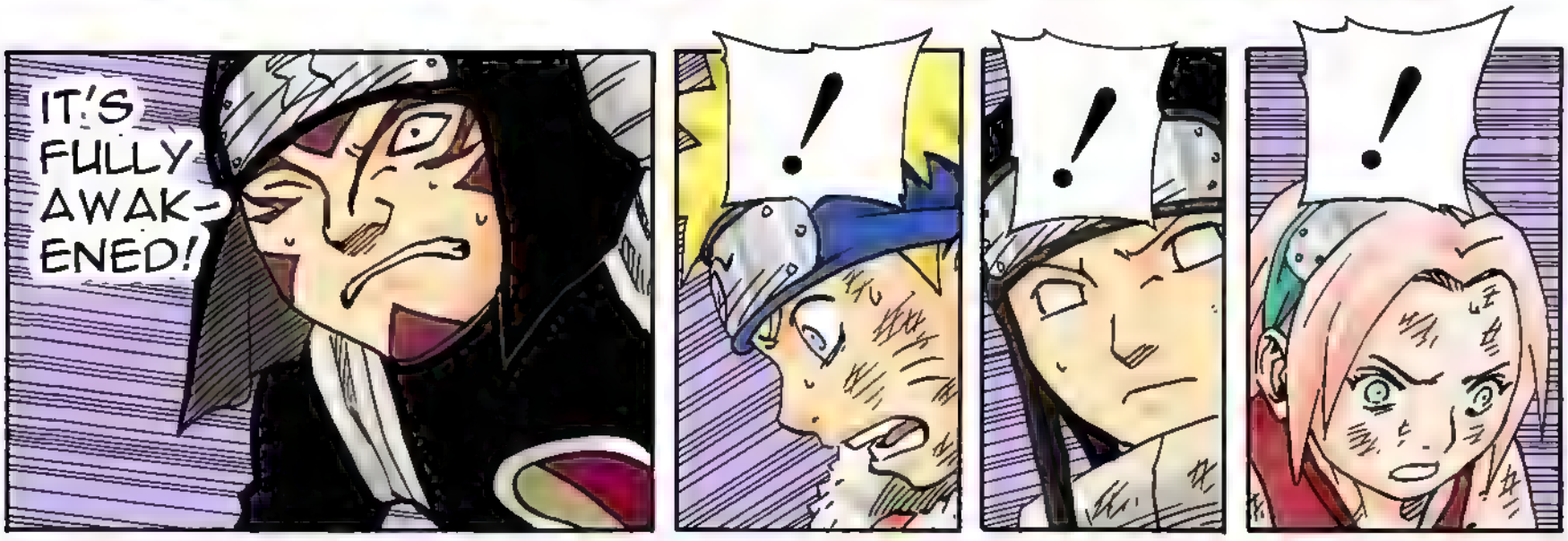
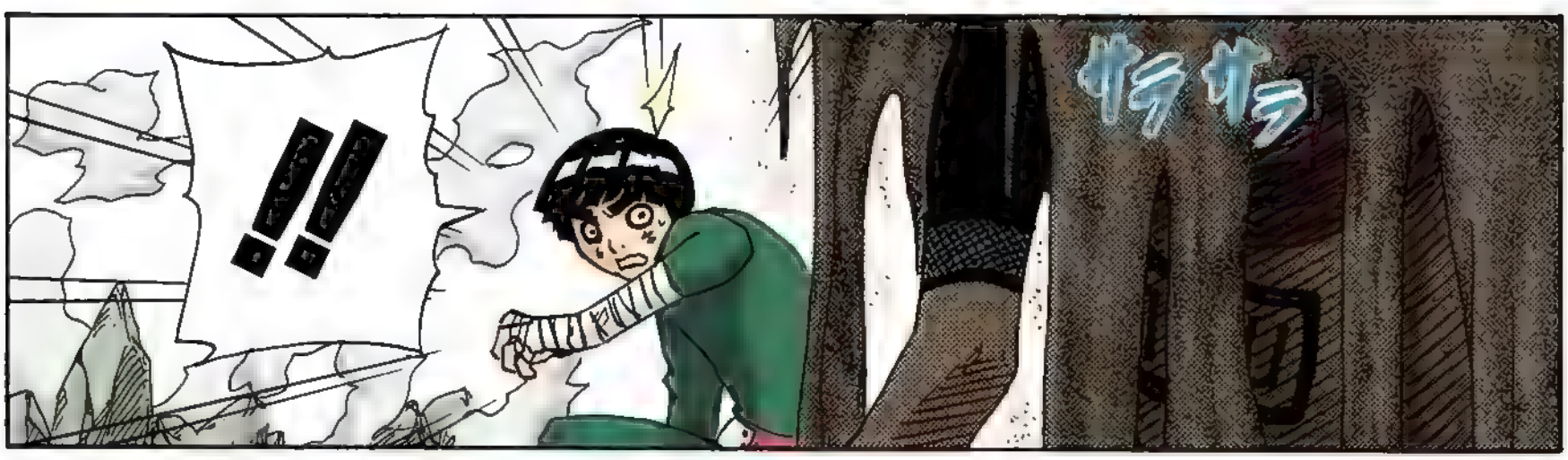
ナンバー 84 : THE GENIUS OF HARD WORK!!







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AUGH!!

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UNH!

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UGH

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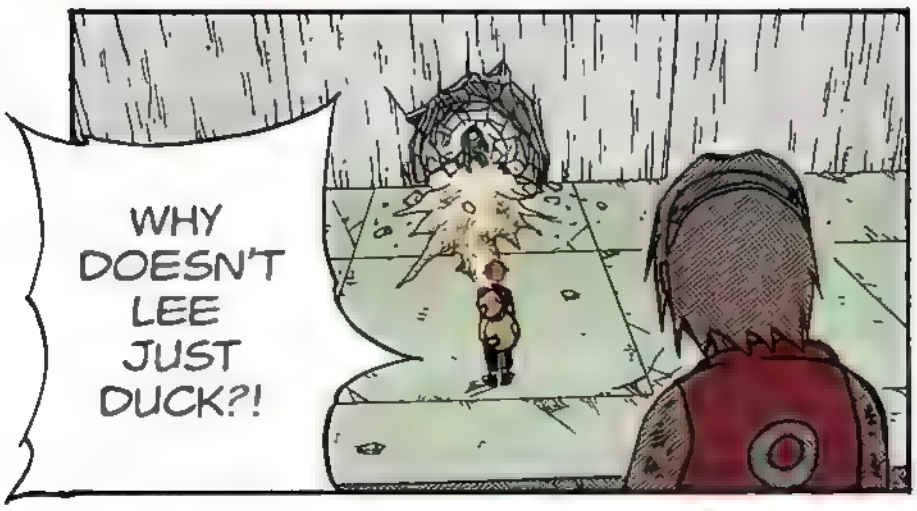

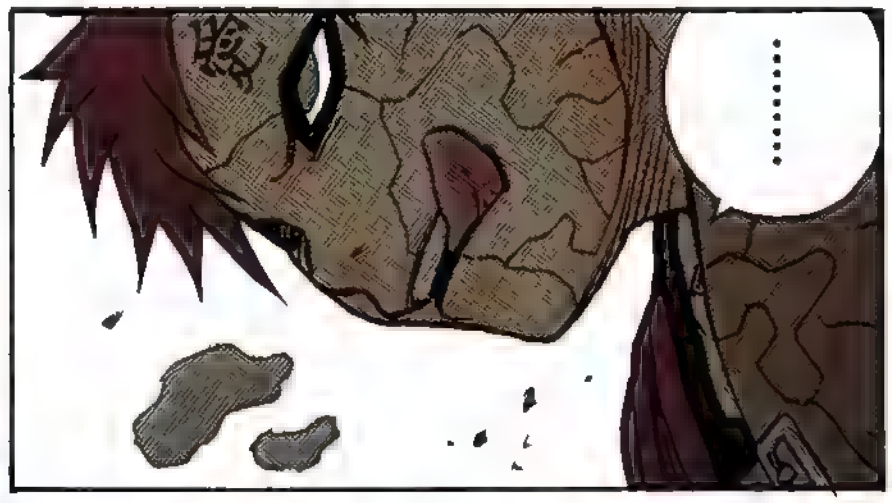

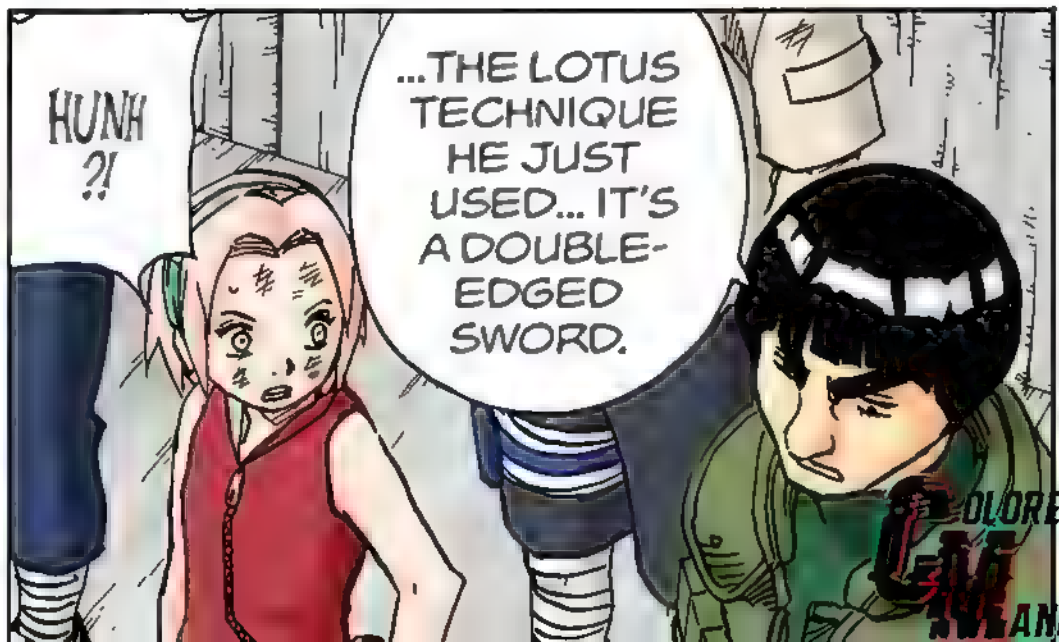

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カ!! ッ!!

AGH!

USING THAT LEVEL OF HIGH-SPEED TAIJUTSU PUTS A HUGE STRAIN ON THE BODY...

FUNDA-MENTALLY, IT'S A FORBIDDEN MOVE.

RIGHT NOW, LEE'S NOTHING BUT A MASS OF PAIN AND WEAKNESS... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, GUY?

B-BUT... THAT MEANS...

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ガ!!

...

LEE

...

...AT THIS RATE, LEE'S GONNA...

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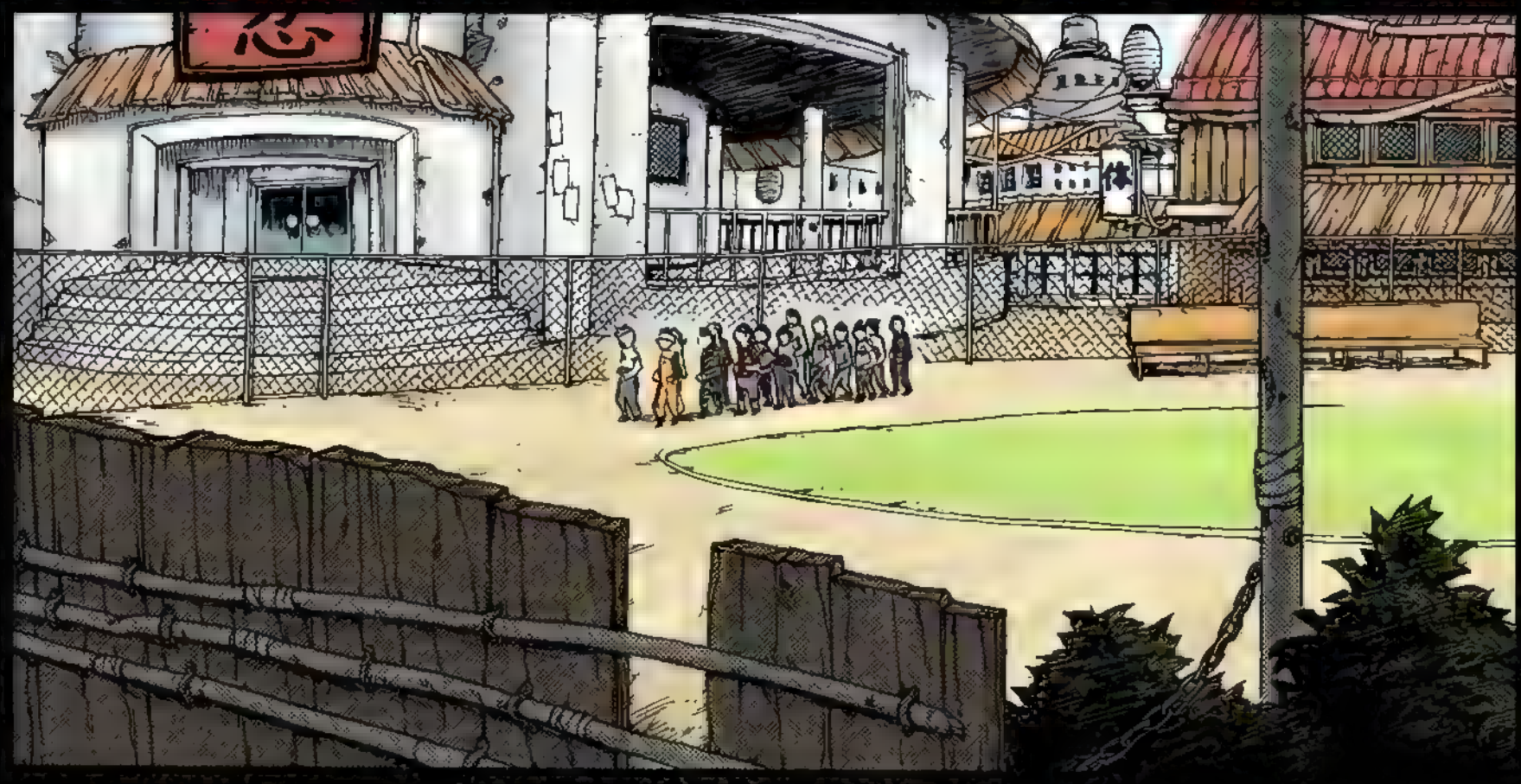


BUT... I WILL!!!

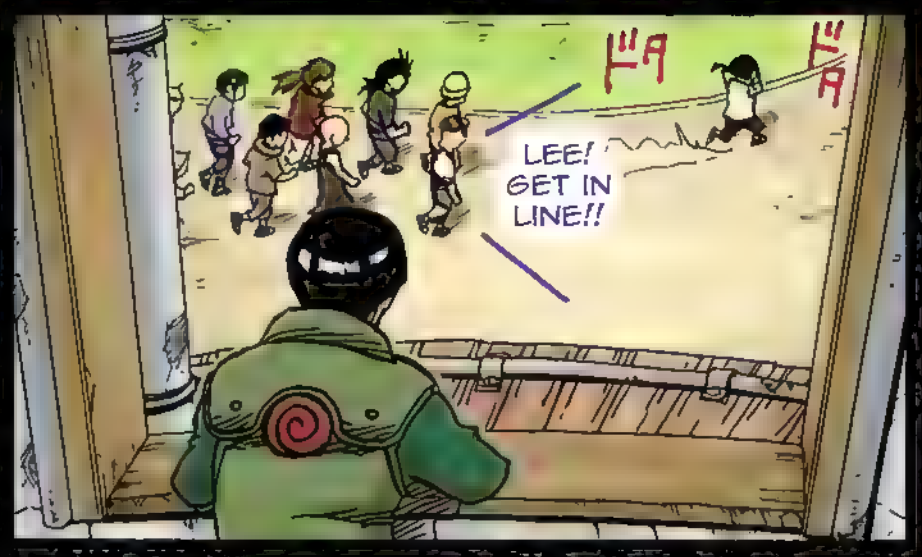
YEAH. HOW COULD SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN USE NINJUTSU HOPE TO BECOME A NINJA?

HA HA HA... YOU IDIOT! THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL EVER BE A NINJA!

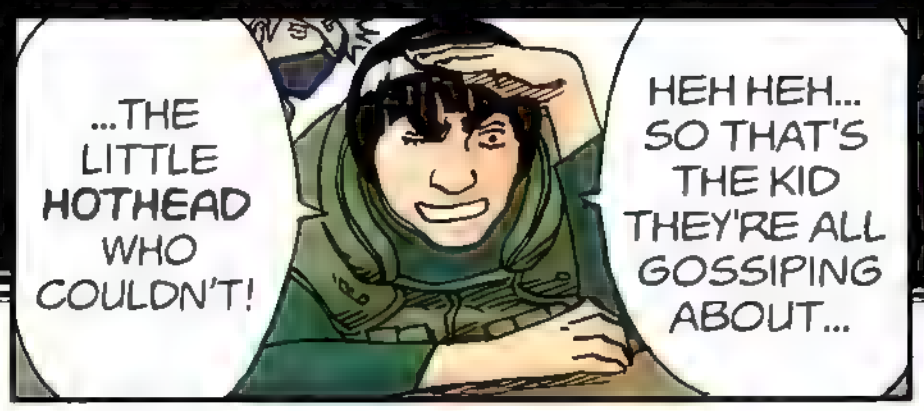
HEH... WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE OTHER KIDS CALL YOU?

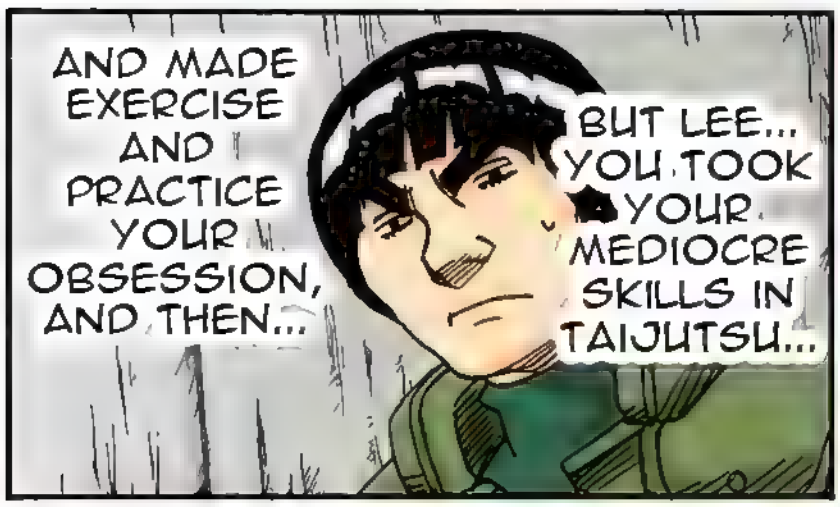
WHAT WERE THEY THINKING, LETTING YOU INTO THE NINJA ACADEMY?

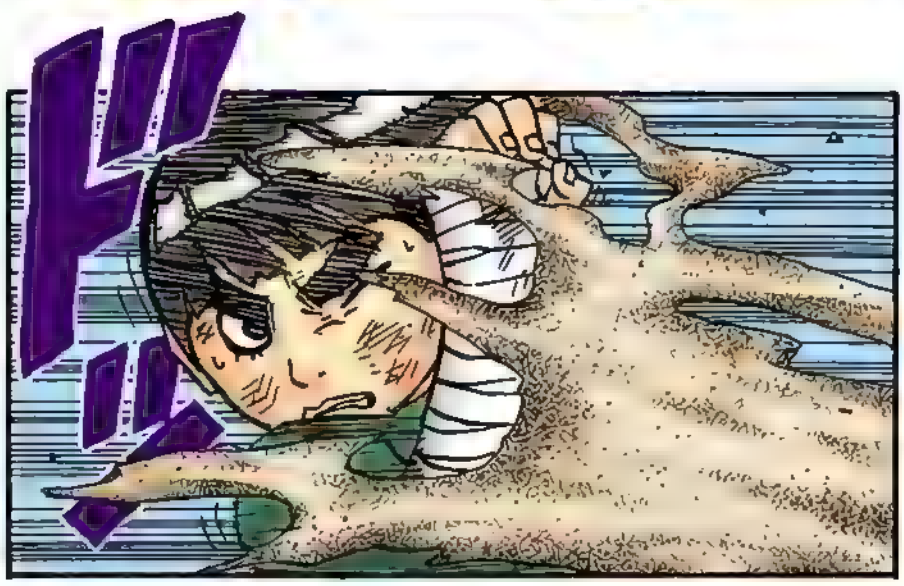
YOU'RE NOT CAPABLE OF ANYTHING BUT TAIJUTSU... AND YOU'RE EVEN MEDIOCRE AT THAT!


LEE! GET IN LINE!!

HA HA!!
!!


...THE LITTLE HOTHEAD WHO COULDN'T!
HEH HEH... SO THAT'S THE KID THEY'RE ALL GOSSIPING ABOUT...


AND MADE EXERCISE AND PRACTICE YOUR OBSESSION, AND THEN...
BUT LEE... YOU TOOK YOUR MEDIOCRE SKILLS IN TAIJUTSU...



...I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT YOUR GOALS!
NOW THAT YOU'VE OFFICIALLY BECOME GENIN*...

WELL THEN...

I DON'T WANT TO SAY.

MASTER!!

!

...THE LEGEND-ARY LADY TSUNADE!

I WANT TO BECOME A STRONG KUNOICHI, LIKE MY IDOL...

IT'S MY ONLY GOAL!!

...CAN STILL BECOME A SPLENDID NINJA!

I WANT TO PROVE THAT EVEN A PERSON WHO CAN'T USE NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU...

HEY! WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

HEH...

HE'S GOT GOOD EYES...

COLORED
AMSA.COM

UNH...

YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE HERE... NOT AGAINST NEJI. HE'S A GENIUS...

OH, LEE! DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN TO QUIT?

ドカ!!

...AND YOU'RE NOT.

UGH...

THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU CAN'T HOPE TO BEAT ME.

GIVE UP, LEE.

.....

HUF

HUF

OKAY... IF 500 CONSECUTIVE PUSHUPS DON'T MAKE ME STRONG ENOUGH, THEN I'LL DO 1200 DOUBLE-SKIPS WITH THE JUMP ROPE...

YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!

バシ

...1116... 1117...

WHOA!

ヒュン

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AND IF 1200 DOUBLE-SKIPS DON'T DO IT, THEN I'LL KICK THE WOODEN PRACTICE DUMMY 2000 TIMES!

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……

WAH...

SOB

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OWW!
UNH...

……

!

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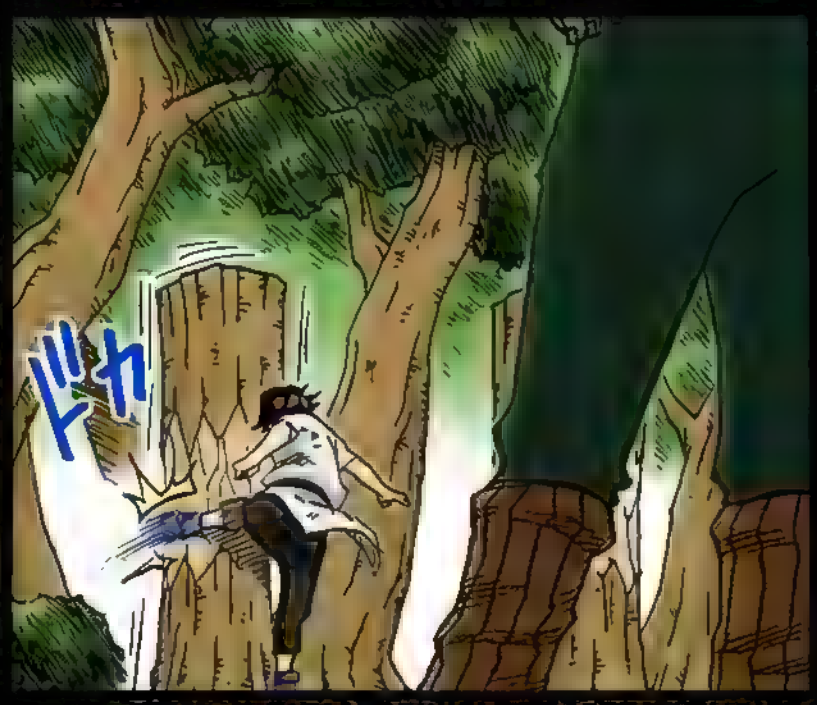
SO, LEE... TAKING A BREAK ALREADY?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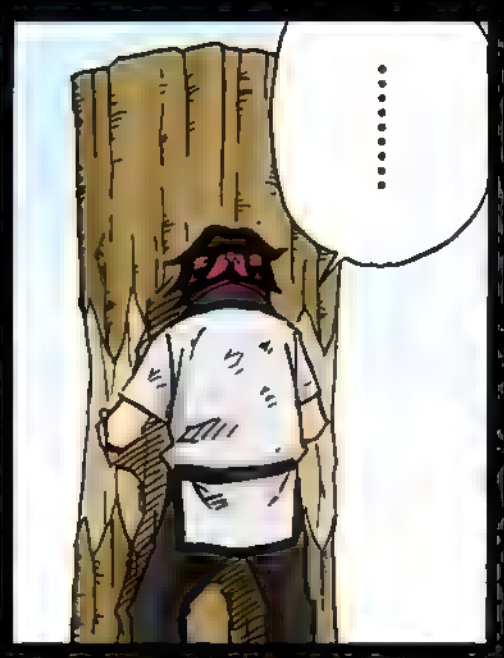
DID YOU... NEED SOME-THING, MASTER GUY?
IF IT'S ABOUT THE BLUNDER I MADE DURING THE LAST MISSION, I THOUGHT I'D ALREADY MADE IT UP TO YOU!

.....

NEVERTHELESS, LEE... THERE'S ONE AREA WHERE YOU COMPLETELY SURPASS NEJI.
YOU'RE A GENIUS OF ANOTHER KIND WITH GREAT HIDDEN POTENTIAL.
YOU KNOW... YOU REALLY ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM NEJI...
YOU'RE NO GENIUS AT NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU... AND YOU REALLY AREN'T A TAIJUTSU VIRTUOSO, EITHER.


.....

...THAT YOU ARE...
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE NICE. I'M JUST SAYING...

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT TO BE NICE!!
ドス

...A GENIUS OF HARD WORK.

...!

...MEAN THAT?

...DO YOU REALLY...

.....

...OF EVER MEASURING UP TO A TRUE GENIUS LIKE NEJI.

BUT... LATELY, I'VE STARTED TO FEEL THAT I HAD NO HOPE...

...BY HAVING FAITH THAT, IF I TRAINED TWO OR THREE TIMES AS HARD AS NEJI, I MIGHT FINALLY BEAT HIM.

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT.

I... I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IT THIS FAR..

AND EVEN NOW, ON MISSIONS, MY LEGS STILL TREMBLE IN FEAR..

...SO I'VE KEPT CHALLENG-ING NEJI... BUT THE RESULTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE SAME...

I'M NO MATCH FOR HIM!

I'VE WONDERED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR HARD WORK ALONE TO BE REWARDED...

ゴ"

IT SCARES ME SO MUCH I CAN'T STAND IT.

ポロ ポロ

...FEAR THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD I WORK, I'LL NEVER GET STRONGER.

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

.....

ALL YOUR HARD WORK WILL PROVE WORTH-LESS...

...UNLESS YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

THANK YOU MASTER GUY...

ジワァ...

チラ

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"I WANT TO PROVE THAT EVEN A PERSON WHO CAN'T USE NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU CAN STILL BECOME A SPLENDID NINJA!"

THAT'S YOUR SHINOBI PATH, ISN'T IT?

YOU REMIND ME OF ME... WAY BACK WHEN I WAS A COMPLETE FAILURE.

NOWADAYS, IN MATCHES AGAINST THAT ELITE GENIUS, KAKASHI, WE'RE NEARLY EVEN!!

!

IT'S A GREAT GOAL...

...ONE THAT'S REALLY WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

IT'S THE PATH YOU CHOSE, SO HAVE FAITH AND FOLLOW IT!

BECOME SUCH A STRONG FIGHTER THAT I CAN JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

.....!

YES, SIR!!

YOU GOT THAT, LEE?!

...LEE, NO! GIVE UP BEFORE HE KILLS YOU!!

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STRONGER THAN EVER!

...AND TO MAKE ME...

スウ

...JUST KNOWING THAT IS ENOUGH TO REVIVE ME...!

シ....

!

MASTER GUY IS SITTING BACK AND ENJOYING THE SHOW...

カラ

HUH?

HE'S ABOUT TO START PUSHING BACK!

LEE'S BEING PUSHED AROUND SO BRUTALLY... WHY IS HE SMILING?

...WILL BLOOM TWICE!!

THE LOTUS OF KONOHA...

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ナンバー

85：NOW OF ALL TIMES!!

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BEFORE WE MEET AGAIN, I WILL HAVE BECOME A STRONGER MAN

I SWEAR IT!

THE FIGHTING LOTUS OF KONOHA WILL GROW AND FLOWER AGAIN!

.....

...THE LOTUS OF KONOHA WILL BLOOM TWICE...

ズッ

...THE NEXT MOVE WILL BE THE LAST.

WELL, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER..

...FOR YOU, IT ENDS HERE.

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ON THE CONTRARY. I DID.

GUY... DON'T TELL ME YOU...!

THE LOTUS OF KONOHA WILL BLOOM TWICE?

.....!

...IS ABLE TO OPEN THE EIGHT INNER GATES...?

THEN... THAT KID, WHO'S JUST A GENIN...

?

IT'S AWFUL ...

YES...

... THAT'S RIGHT.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH TALENT HE HAS, YOU TAUGHT HIM SOMETHING HORRIBLY DANGEROUS!

HE HAS THE TALENT...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...OF MOVES THAT YOU SHOULDN'T TEACH!!

THE REVERSE LOTUS TOPS THE LIST...

...REVERSE LOTUS...?

!!

YOU...

.....

...DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THAT KID...

...AND I'LL SPARE US BOTH THE LECTURE ABOUT NOT BEING GOVERNED BY YOUR FEELINGS... BUT YOU CROSSED A LINE ON THIS!

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS WHAT THAT CHILD MEANS TO YOU...

...YOU DISAPPOINT ME, GUY!

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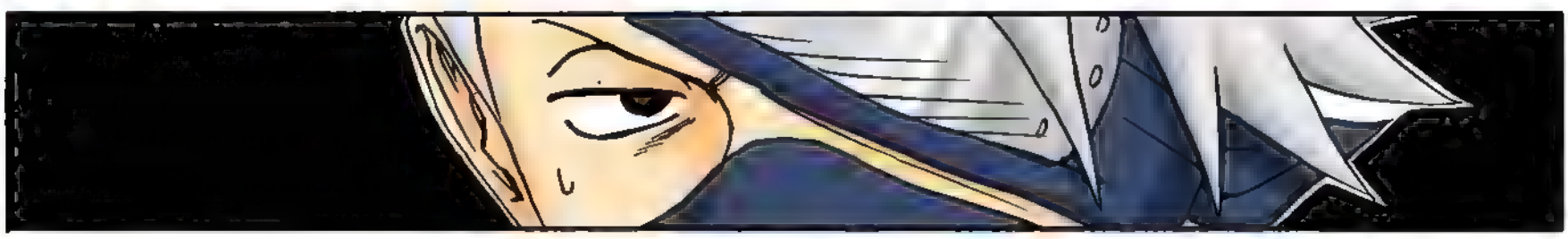
I WANT TO PROVE THAT EVEN A PERSON WHO CAN'T USE NINJUTSU OR GEN-JUTSU ...

...CAN STILL BECOME A SPLENDID NINJA! IT'S MY ONLY GOAL!!



THAT'S WHY I... WANTED TO HELP HIM BECOME SOMEONE WHO'D BE ABLE TO STAND UP FOR HIS IDEALS.

I HAD TO.

THAT BOY HAS SOMETHING HE VALUES SO DEEPLY THAT HE'S WILLING TO DIE FOR THE SAKE OF IT.

OH BOY...

...THIS IS GREAT!!!

YOU BET I DID!!

LEE, DID YOU HEAR ME?

SNAP OUT OF IT AND PAY ATTENTION!!

LEE!

...A MOVE THAT CAN BECOME YOUR ACE IN THE HOLE.

HUNH?

...LEE... I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING NEW...

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……!

...SPECIAL...

Y-YES, SIR!

ビクッ

I'VE GOT TO START BY WARNING YOU THAT THIS MOVE IS EVEN MORE FORBIDDEN THAN THE LOTUS...

...AND IT WILL BECOME A VERY SPECIAL MOVE IN YOUR ARSENAL.

BUT... PAY CLOSE ATTENTION... YOU CAN ONLY EVER USE IT ON ONE CONDITION...

AND THAT CONDITION IS...

スゥ...

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!!!

SO TELL ME, GUY... WHICH OF THE EIGHT INNER GATES HAS HE GOTTEN UP TO SO FAR?

SO HE WAS ABLE TO BOUNCE BACK FROM EXHAUSTION WITH SUCH ABNORMAL SPEED BECAUSE HE'D FORCED OPEN THE KYUMON -- THE GATE OF REST.

THE FIFTH GATE.

WH... WHAT ARE YOU BOTH TALKING ABOUT?!

YOU KEEP MENTION-ING THESE... INNER GATES?

SO...THE BOY'S A GENIUS AFTER ALL.

THAT FEAT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THROUGH HARD WORK ALONE...

!?

LIMITERS... RELEASED?

THE GATES ACT AS LIMITERS THAT MUST BE RELEASED IN PREPARATION FOR PERFORMING THE REVERSE LOTUS.

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YES...

AT EIGHT SPECIFIC POINTS ALONG THE KEIRAKUKEI -- THE NETWORK OF ENERGY LINES THROUGH WHICH CHAKRA FLOWS...

KAIMON
KYUMON
SEIMON
SHOMON
SHIMON
TOMON
KEIMON
KYOMON
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

...THERE ARE PLACES WHERE THE CHAKRA NODES CONVERGE:

KAIMON -- GATE OF OPENING
KYUMON -- GATE OF REST
SEIMON -- GATE OF LIFE
SHOMON -- GATE OF PAIN
TOMON -- GATE OF CLOSING
KEIMON -- GATE OF JOY
KYOMON -- GATE OF SHOCK
SHIMON -- GATE OF DEATH

THOSE ARE CALLED THE EIGHT INNER GATES...

INCIDENTALLY, THE FORWARD LOTUS OPENS ONLY THE FIRST GATE -- KAIMON.

...ENABLING THE USER TO DRAW UPON STRENGTH THAT IS DOZENS OF TIMES HIS USUAL LEVEL...

...EVEN IF THE USER'S BODY IS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS.

THEY CONSTANTLY MAINTAIN LIMITS ON THE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA FLOWING THROUGH THE BODY...

...LIMITS THAT THE LOTUS USES CHAKRA TO FORCIBLY OVERRIDE...

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OPENING THE KAIMON FREES THE USER FROM HIS OWN MENTAL INHIBITIONS. THE OPENING OF THE KYUMON BOOSTS HIS STRENGTH...

...AND WITH THE OPENING OF THE THIRD GATE --THE SEIMON -- ONE CAN BEGIN THE REVERSE LOTUS...

AND... THE REVERSE LOTUS?

.....!

THAT'S RIGHT... THIS TECHNIQUE TRULY IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

THE STATE WHERE ALL THE GATES HAVE BEEN OPENED IS CALLED THE "EIGHT INNER GATES FORMATION"...

...AND ANYONE WHO ACHIEVES THAT STATE WILL, HOWEVER BRIEFLY, BE GRANTED STRENGTH THAT SURPASSES EVEN THE HOKAGE'S. BUT IN EXCHANGE...

BUT... THE FORWARD LOTUS ALONE GOT HIM SO BEATEN UP...

...IF HE TRIES TO PERFORM ANY MORE MOVES...

!!

...THAT PERSON WILL INEVITABLY **DIE!**

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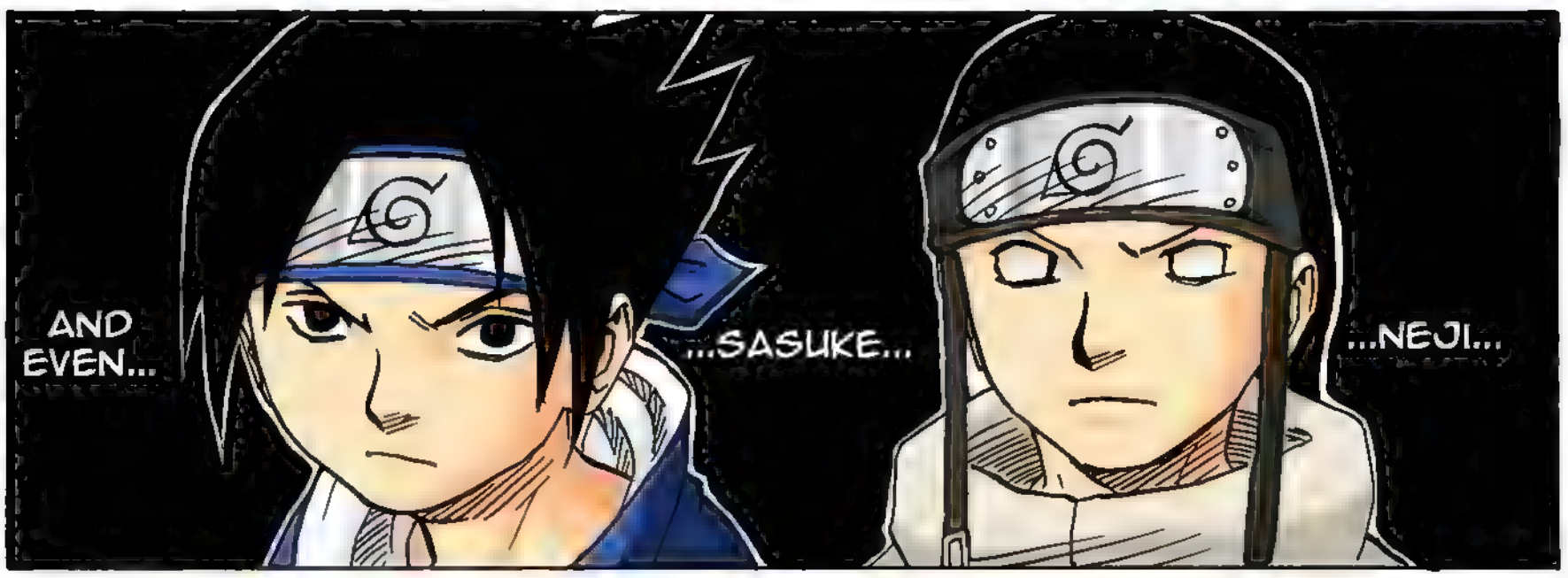

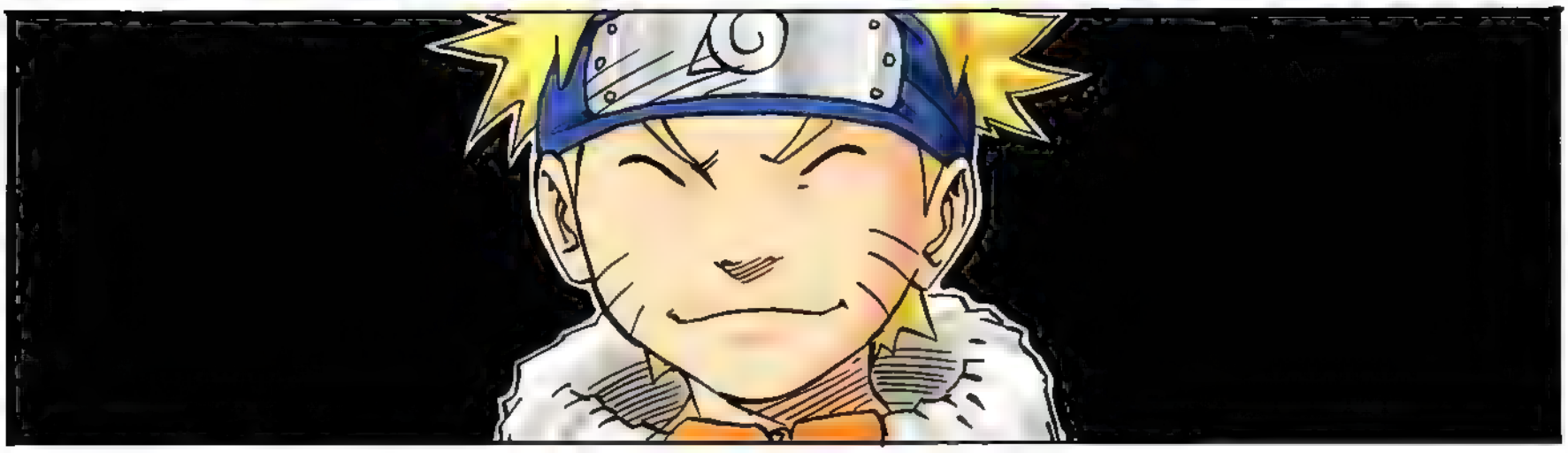

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...MY SHINOBI PATH!!!

...NOW WHEN I FINA-LLY ATT-AIN...

THE THIRD GATE, SEIMON... RELEASE!!

HE'S GOING TO MAKE HIS MOVE!

HE OPENED THE SEIMON...

!!

!!

IT'S RED?!

!!

THE COLOR OF HIS SKIN!

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HYAAAH!!!

AND WHILE I'M AT IT... THE FOURTH GATE SHOMON... RELEASE!!!

HE'S QUITE SOMETHING...

.....

!!

!!

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!!

!!

HE IS FAST!!

OW!

YAAH!

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WHERE DID HE GO?!

GAARA?!

LOOK UP!

BUT WHAT ABOUT LEE?! I DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE!

CRUMBLE

COLORED MANGA.COM

!

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...JUST CAN'T KEEP UP!

NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THE SAND...

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THE SAND ARMOR AGAIN, EH?

...PEEL-ING OFF?!

WHAT? MY SAND ARMOR IS..

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AT THIS RATE ...

COLORED MANGA.COM

BUT IT'S ONLY LEE! HOW DID HE GET SO...?

IF THIS GOES ANY FAR-THER...

HIS MUS-CLES HAVE TORN...

!!

YUKI

GAI

THE FIFTH GATE TOMON... RELE-ASE!!!

THIS IS THE END!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!

ナンバー
86 : A SPLENDID NINJA!!

Ay

HEY NEJI! THIS IS A MOVE I WAS KEEPING IN RESERVE TO USE AGAINST YOU, BUT ...

I'LL GIVE YOU A SNEAK PREVIEW!

MY DEFE-NSES ARE FAILING ...

愛

IS HE EVEN HUMAN ?!

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COLORED MANGA.COM

!!

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COLORED MANGA.COM

THESE RAPID MOVES ARE LEE'S KEY TO WINNING THE MATCH...

THE REVERSE LOTUS... A SERIES OF TAIJUTSU PERFORMED WITH SUCH SPEED THAT THE ATTACKER IS UNTOUCHABLE!

THERE'S NO WAY THE SAND CAN CATCH UP!

MUCH OF THE SAND ARMOR HAS BEEN TORN AWAY...

THE SAND SHIELD CAN'T KEEP UP...

THIS IS NOT GOOD!!

.....

THIS IS THE FINALE!

ガッ

ガ!!

ガ!!

HYAH!!

ガイン

!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー

86：

REVERSE LOTUS!!!

A SPLENDID NINJA!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

IT'S SO FAST YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE...

サラサラ

KRAK

SNAP SNAP

ARGH...

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THE GOURD IS TURNING TO SAND!

!

DON'T TELL ME...

!

トラゴオッ

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ガラ

ARGH!!

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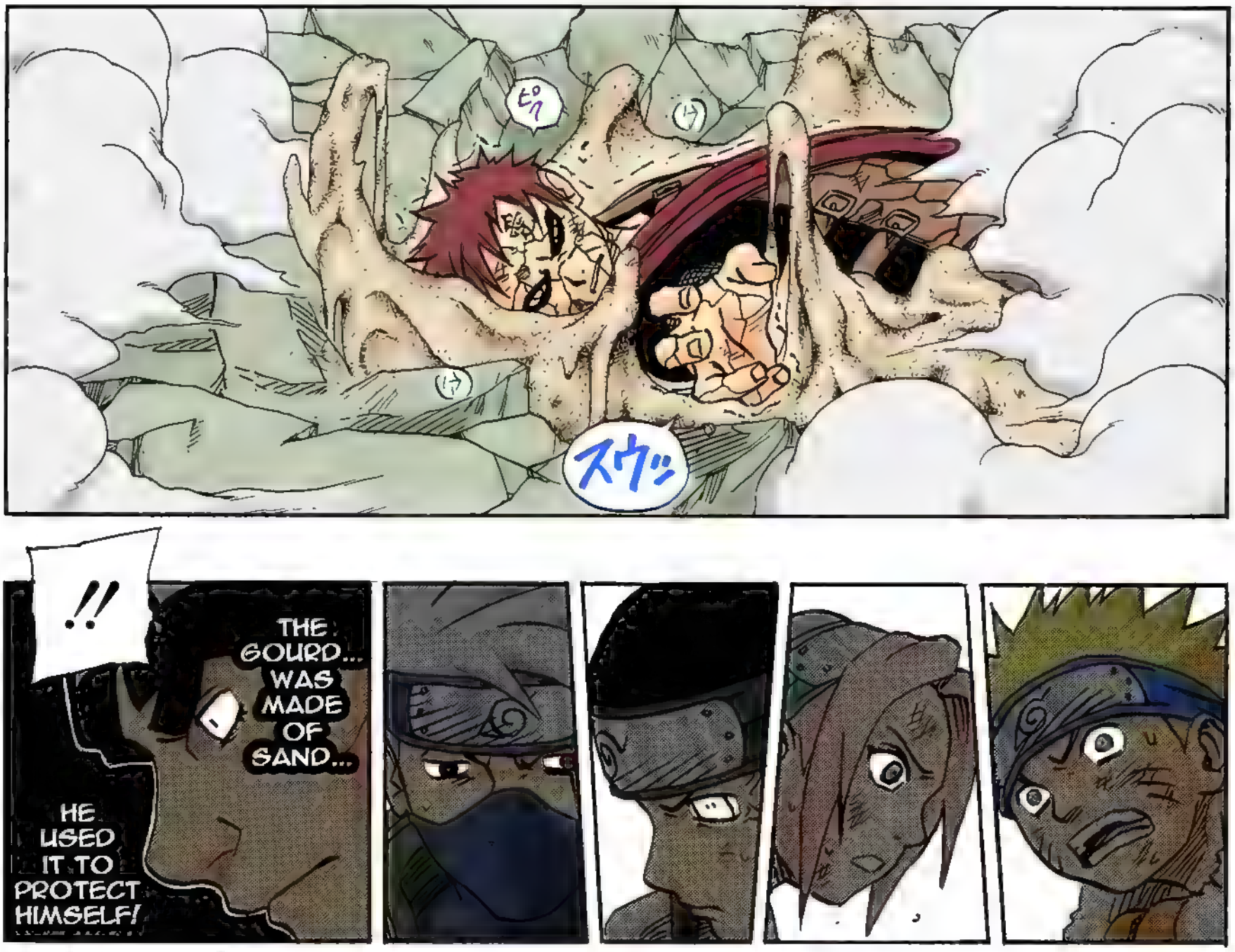

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SABA-KUKYU! THE COFFIN OF CRUSHING SAND!!

!!

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AAGH!!

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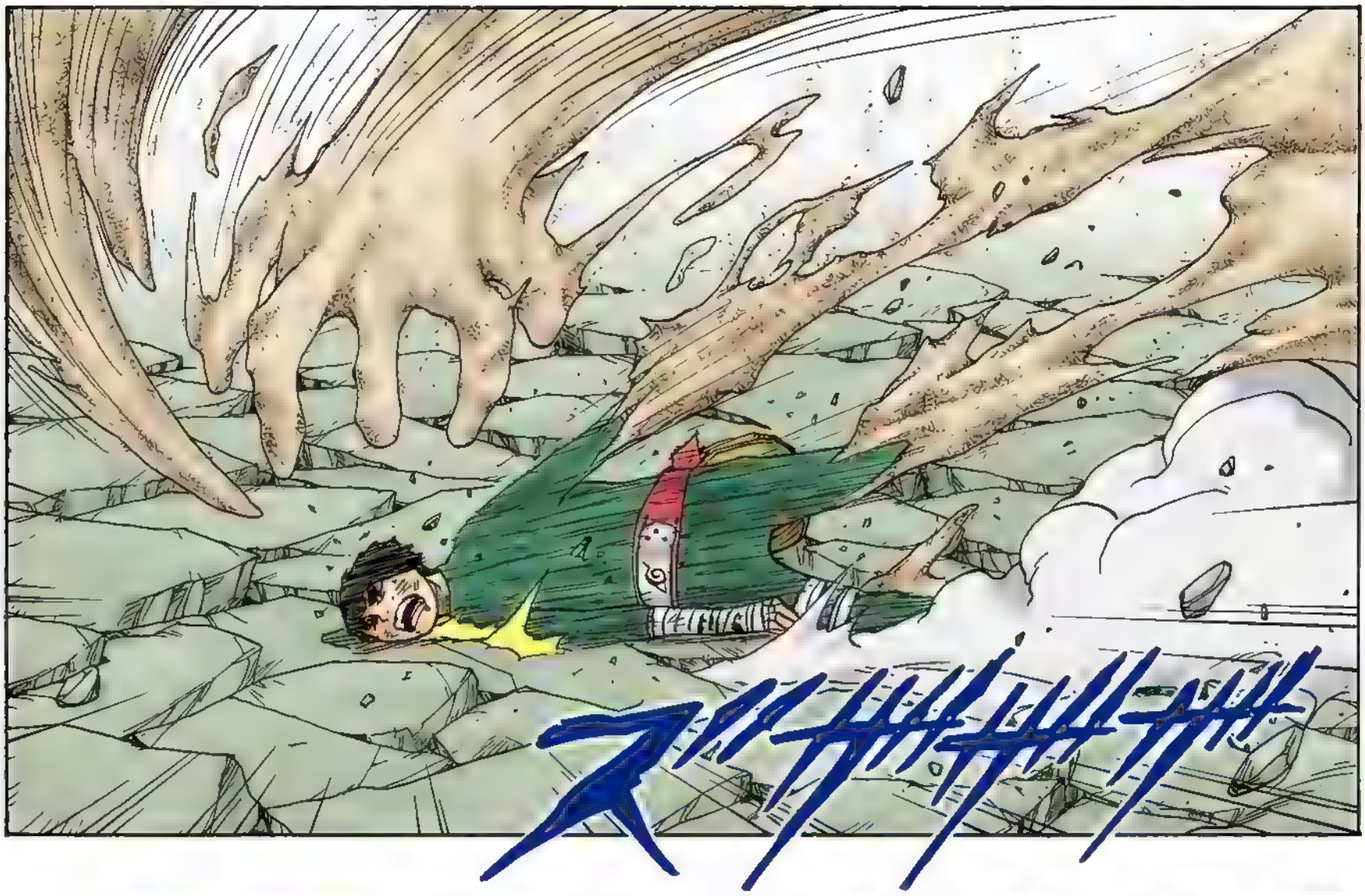

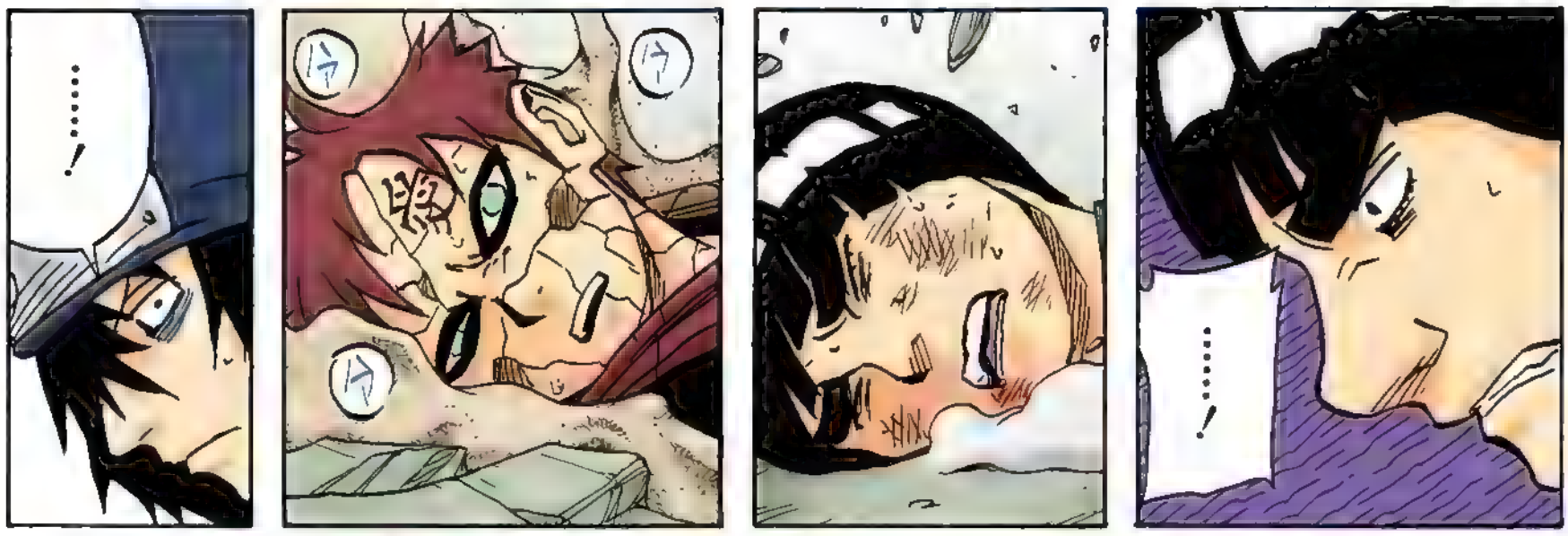

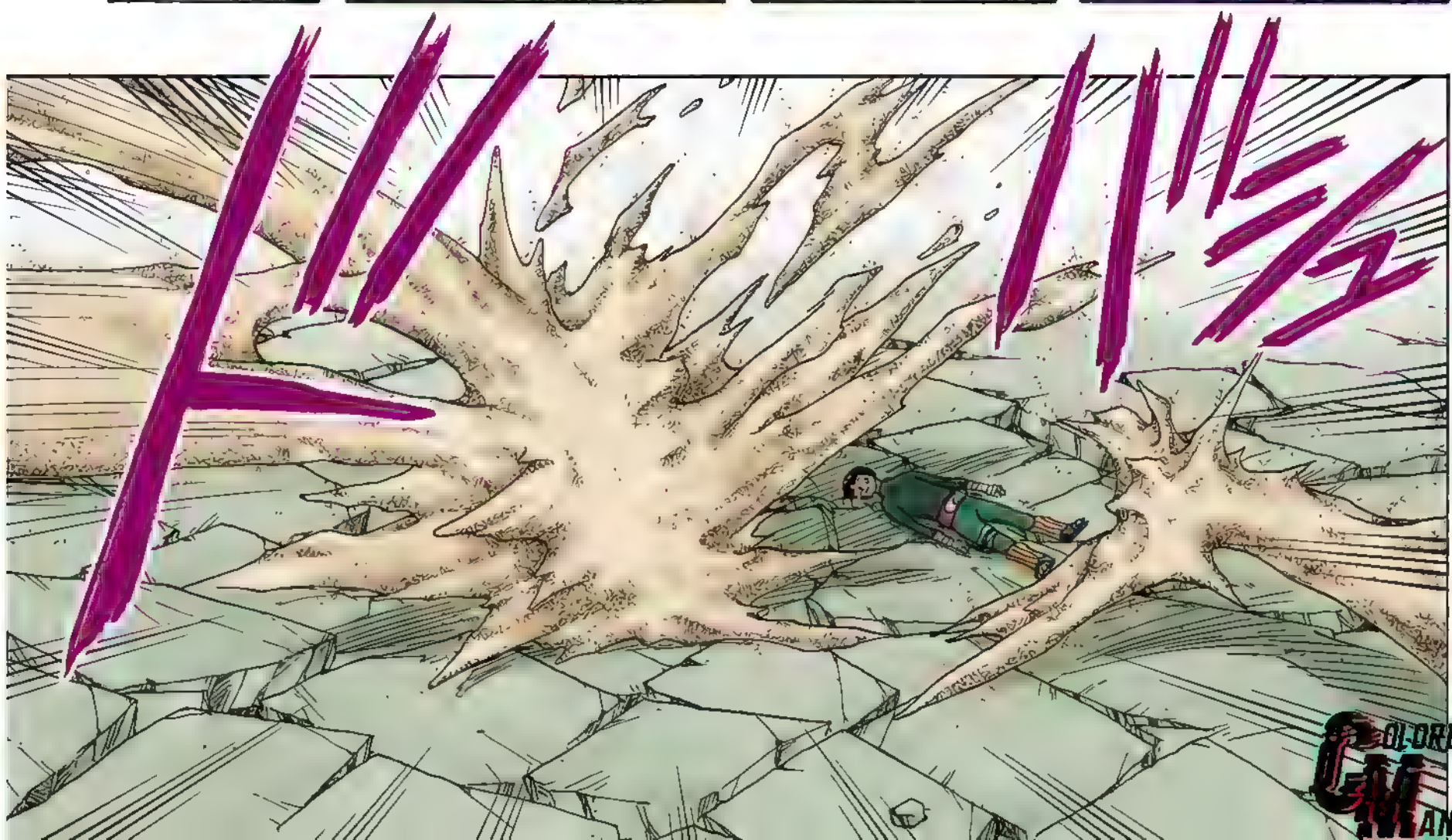

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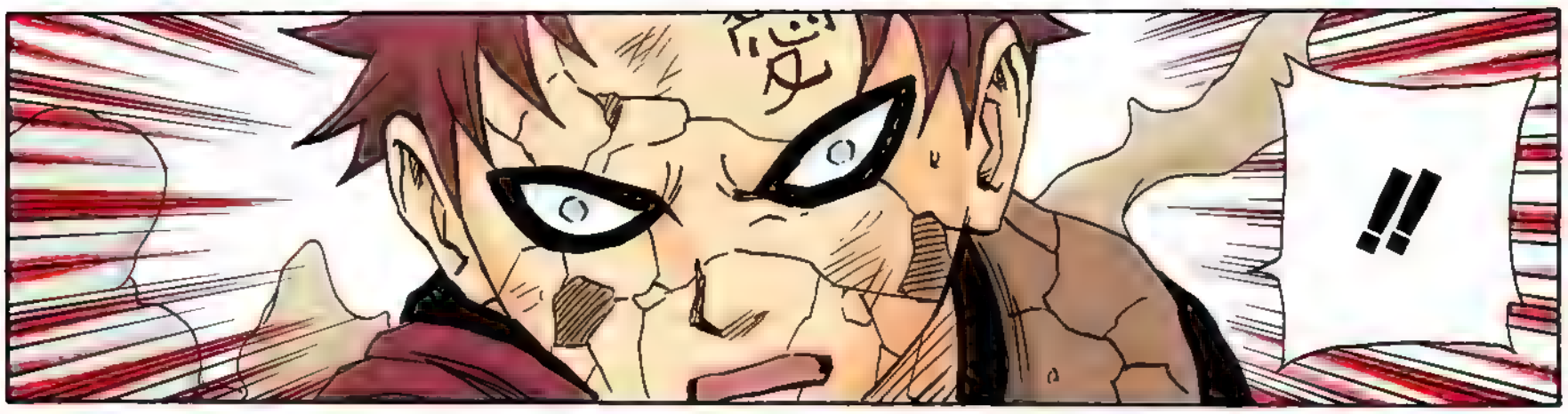
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……!
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UNH...

...HELPING HIM?

WHY ARE YOU...

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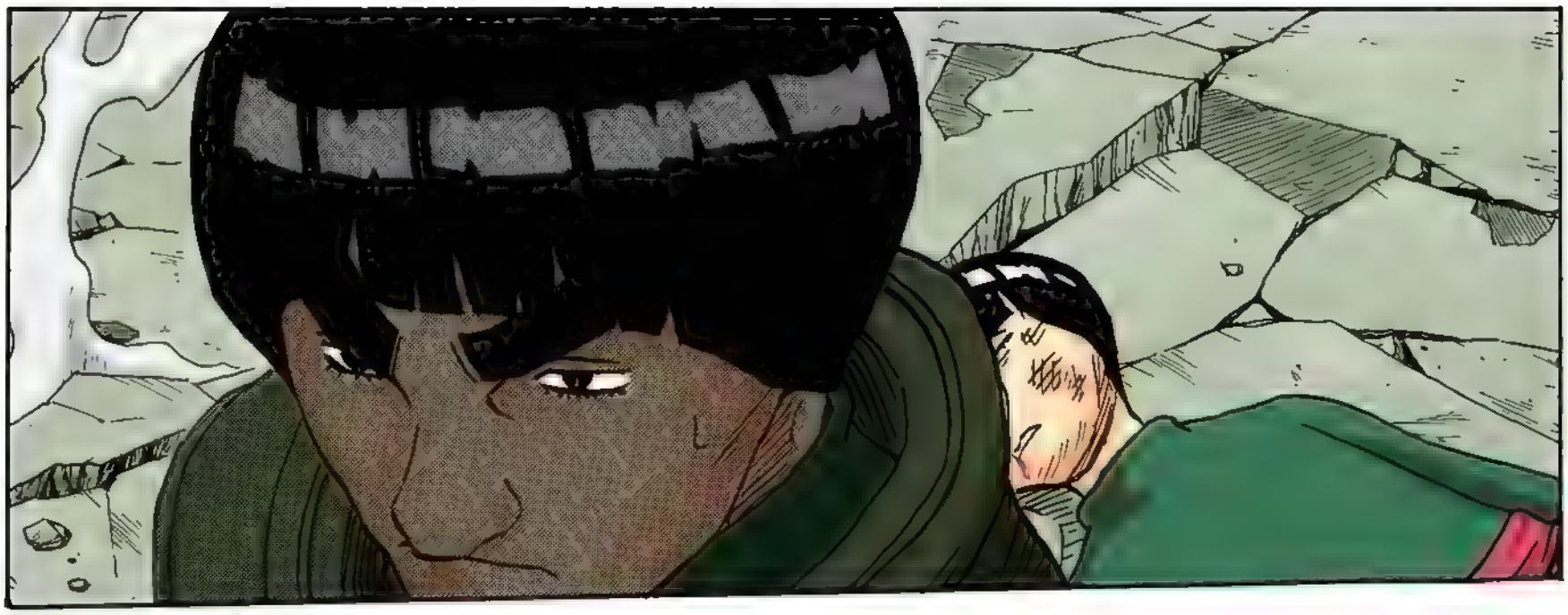

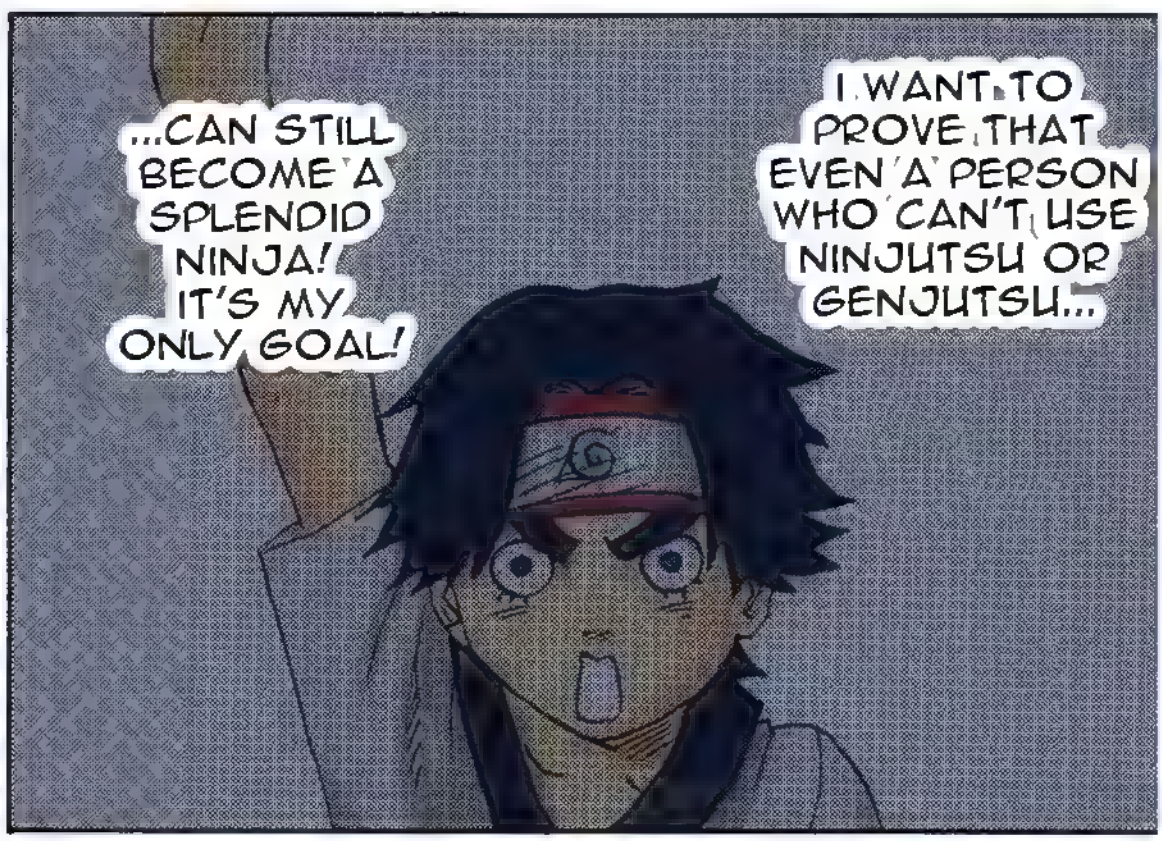

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HE'S MY LOVABLE, PRECIOUS PROTÉGÉ!

...THOSE WORDS ARE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF GAARA'S UNDER-STANDING...

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THE VICTOR IS GAARA!

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FORGET IT...

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HUH?!

.....!

!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

HOW CAN HE STILL STAND?!

HE OPENED FIVE GATES. HIS ARM AND LEG WERE CRUSHED...

KREAK

KREAK

KRK

POP

COLORED MANGA.COM

!

...LEE... YOU...

……

YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO BE STAND-ING...

LEE, IT'S ALL RIGHT... IT'S OVER.

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...YOU INCREDIBLE KID...

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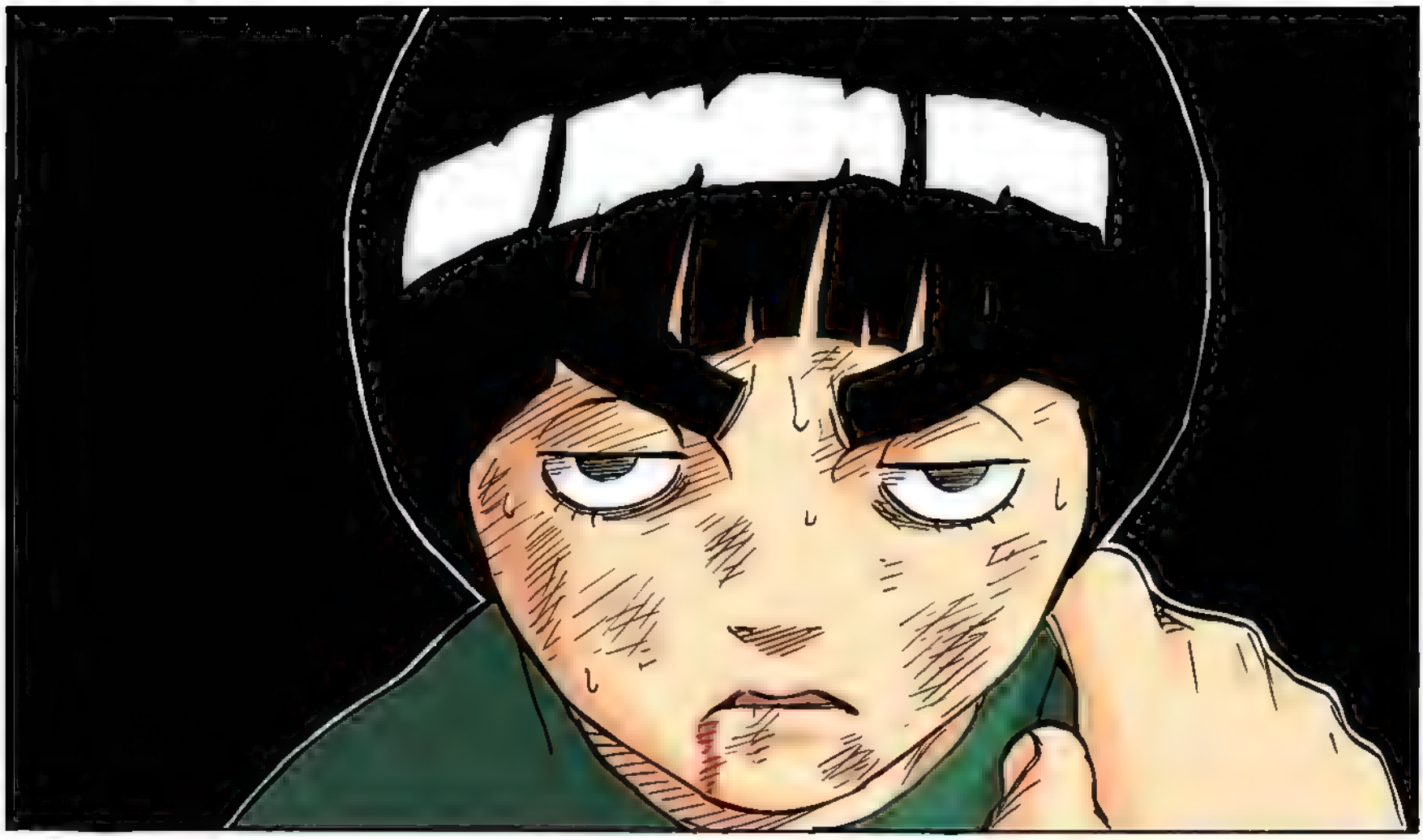

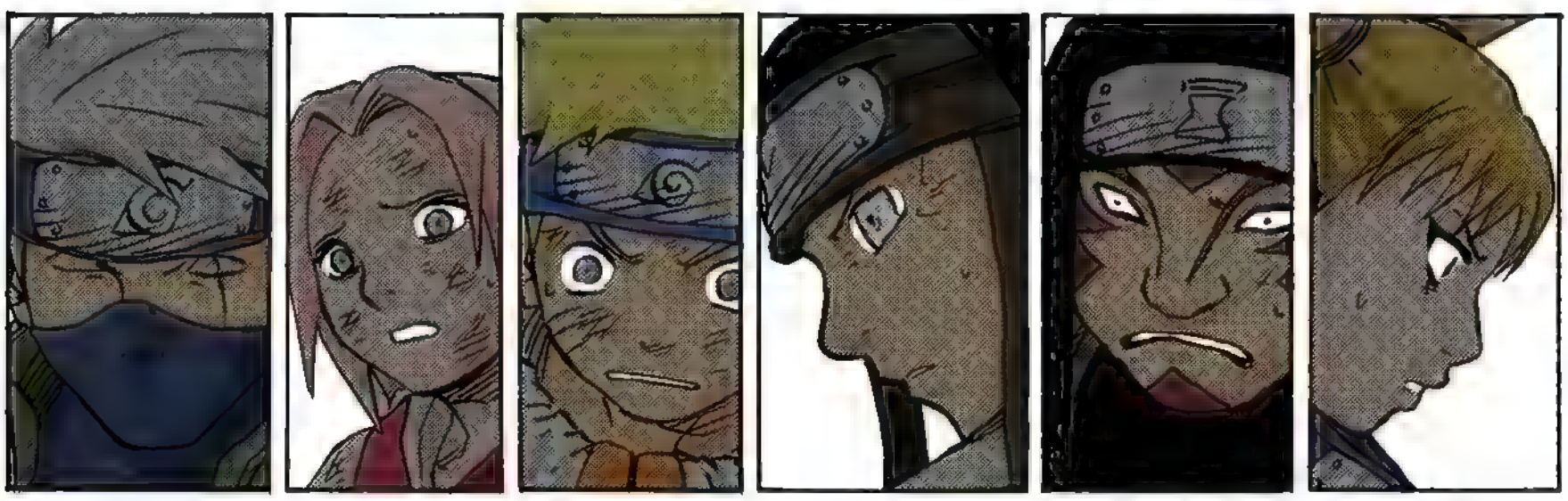

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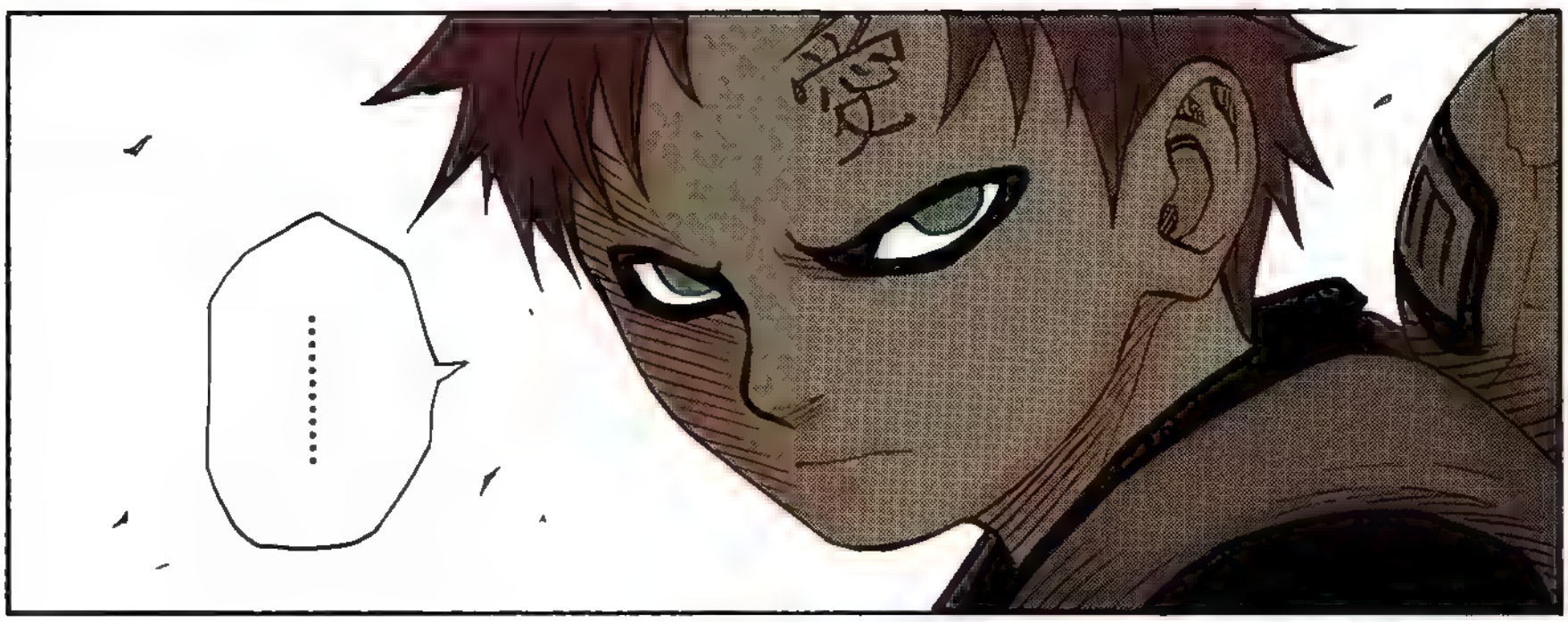

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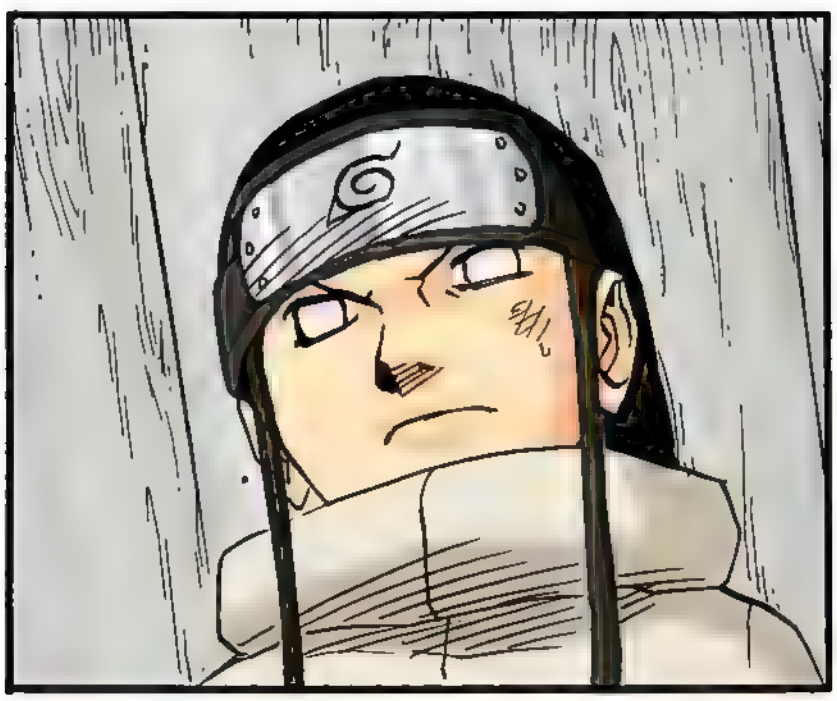
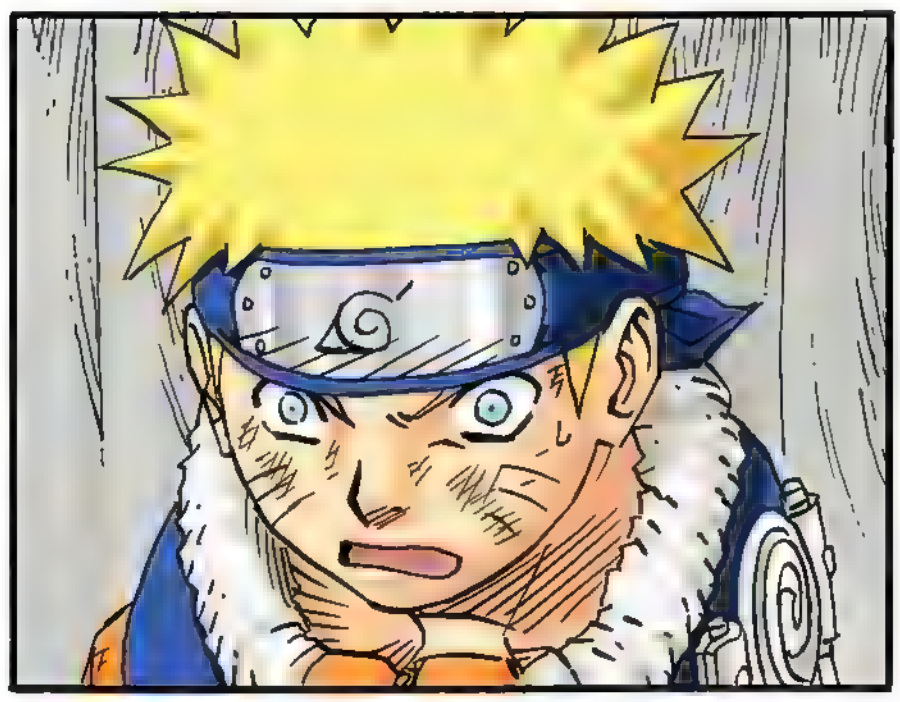
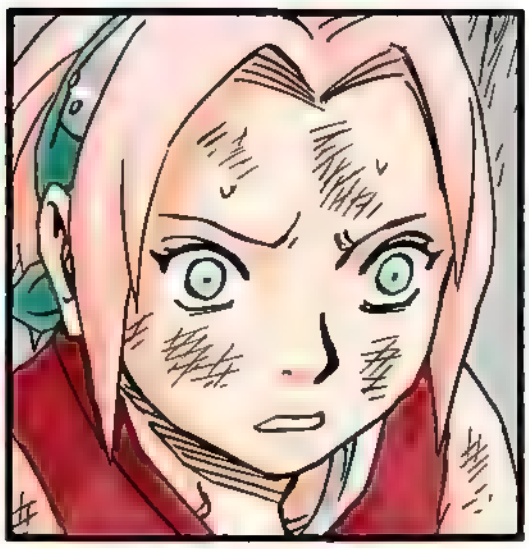
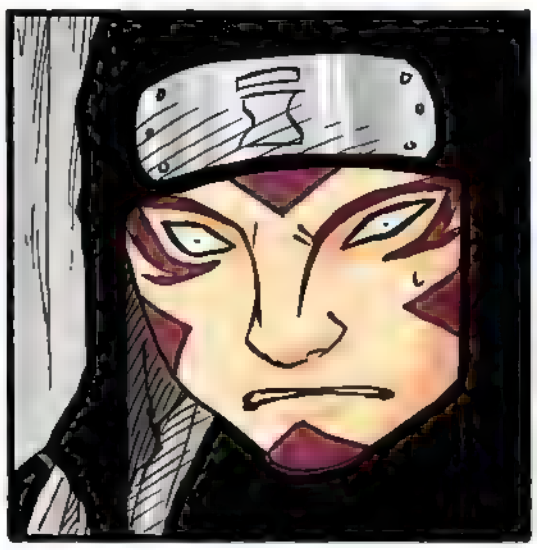
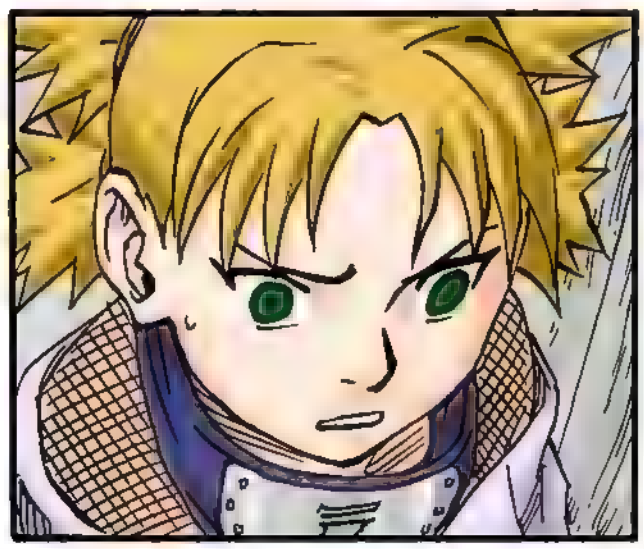
ナンバー87：THE PRELIMINARIES COMPLETED!!

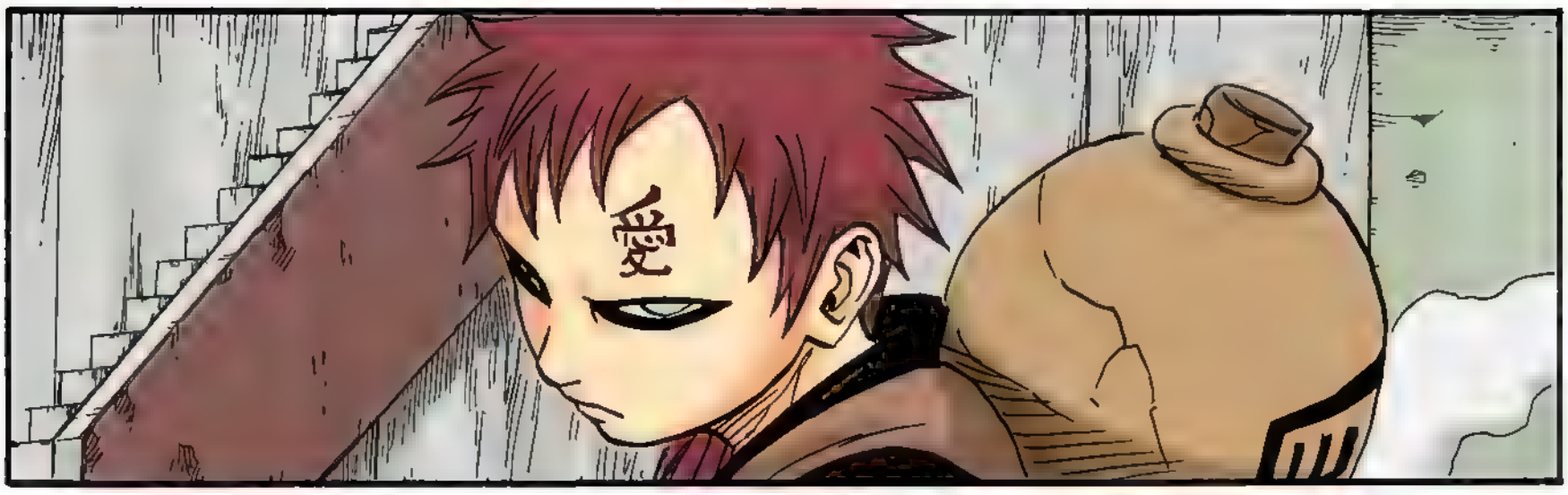












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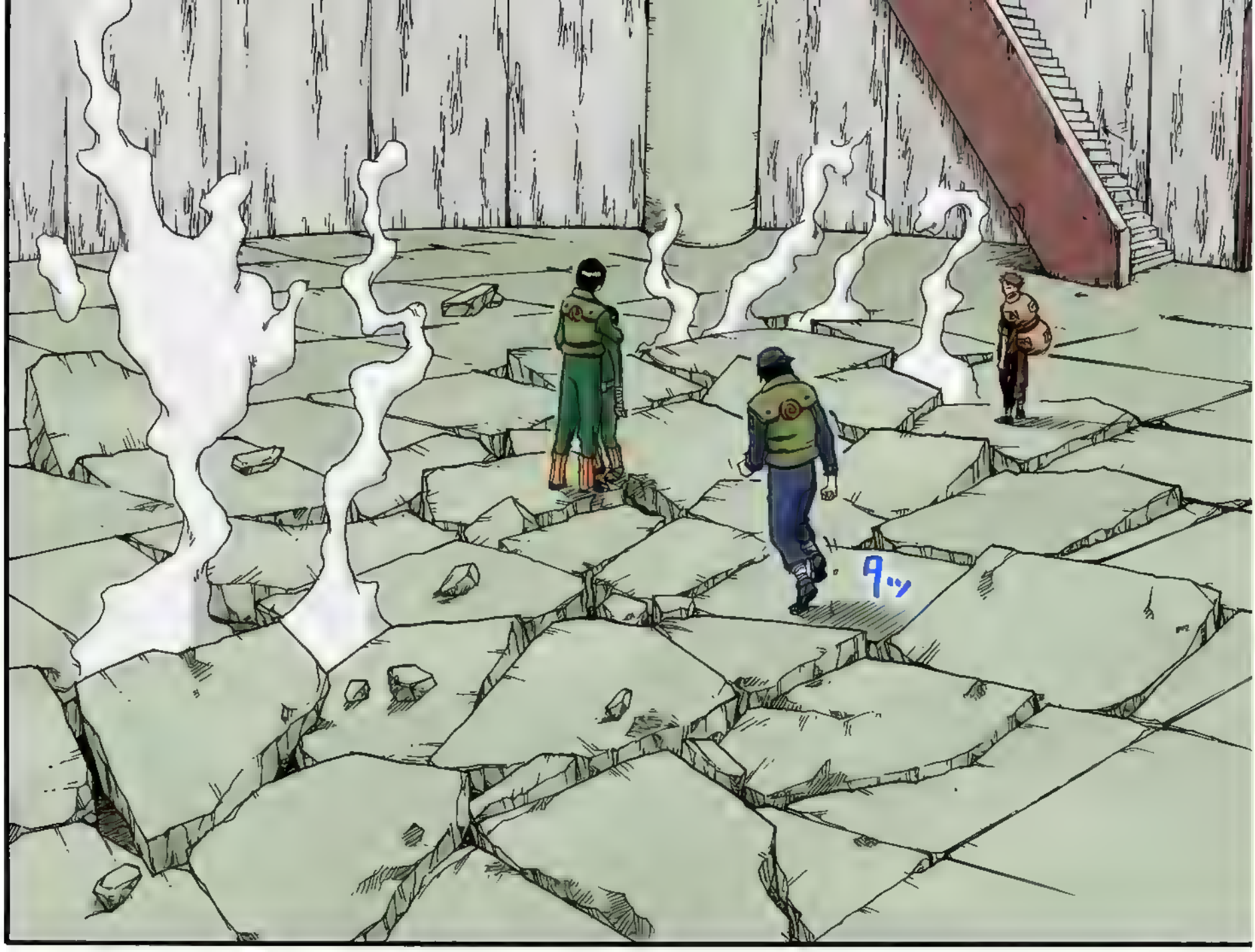

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!

HMPH! HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE AGAINST GAARA...

NARUTO

HOW COULD BUSHY BROWS LOSE TO SUCH A JERK?!

EMERGENCY UNIT, PLEASE HURRY!!

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E... EXCUSE US!

.....

! ARE YOU THE JÔNIN RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM? IF I MAY HAVE A WORD...

!

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I DON'T WANT TO SAY THIS, BUT...

.....

IF THAT WERE THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES, WE COULD STILL EXPECT A FULL RECOVERY, BUT...

...THOUGH HE'S BREATHING ON HIS OWN, HE HAS COMPOUND COMPRESSIVE FRACTURES AND TORN MUSCLES THROUGHOUT HIS BODY.

...THE DAMAGE TO HIS ATTACKED LEFT ARM AND LEG IS ESPECIALLY SEVERE.

...HE'LL NEVER RECOVER ENOUGH TO BE A SHINOBI AGAIN.

THIS KID'S BODY IS SO DESTROYED...

!!

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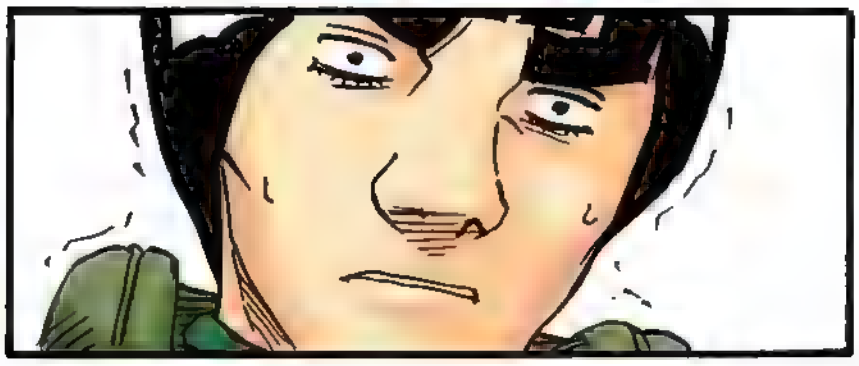

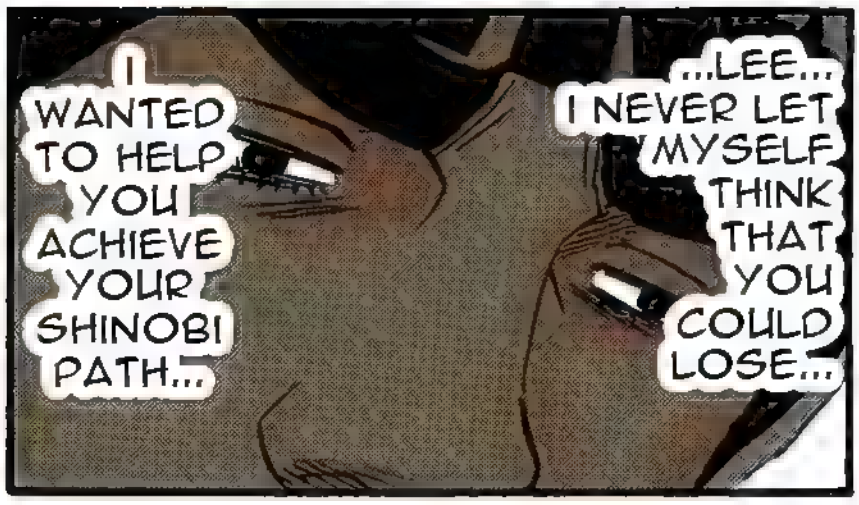

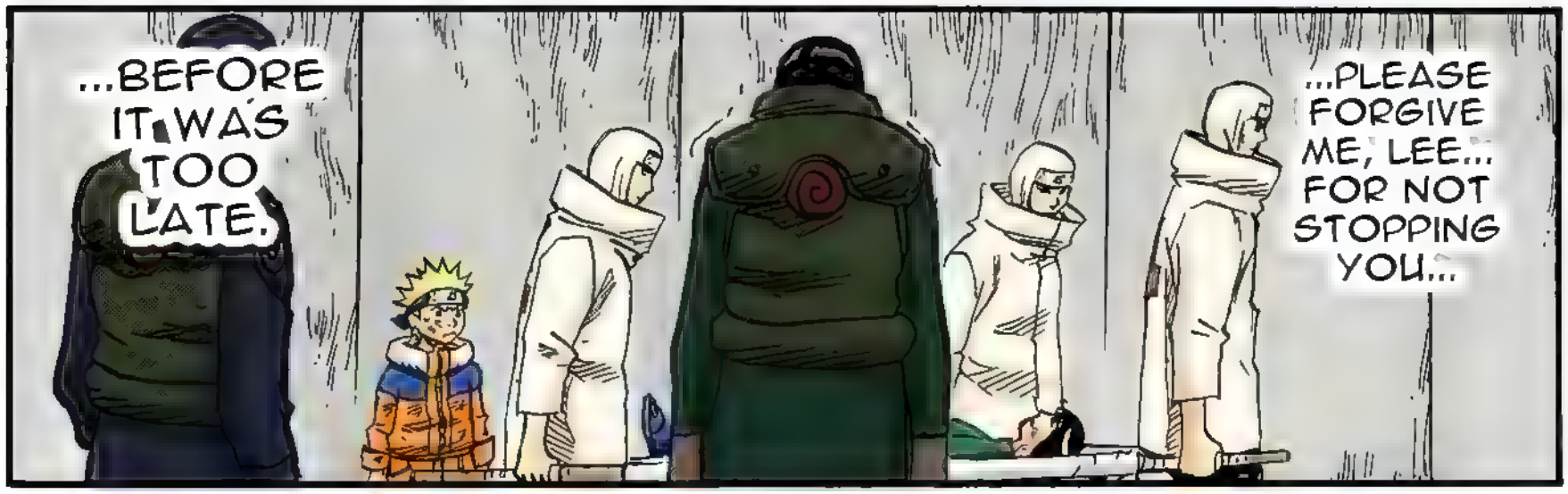

HE KEPT SAYING HE WAS DESPERATE TO FIGHT SASUKE AND THAT NEJI GUY...
CAN'T YOU DO ANY-THING TO HELP HIM?!
WHAT IS BUSHY BROWS SUPPOSED TO DO?!
WELL...

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IT WAS HIS OWN CHOICE TO USE A FORBIDDEN, SELF-SACRIFICING ART...

...IN A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO WIN.

...BUT MAYBE...

...THAT WAS HIS UN-DOING.

.....!

HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO HONOR...

...THE UN-SPOKEN OATH...

...THE OATH THAT EXISTS BETWEEN HIM AND SASUKE, NEJI... AND EVEN YOU, NARUTO...

.....

HE RISKED HIS LIFE...

...SO THAT HE MIGHT HAVE THE CHANCE TO FIGHT ALL OF YOU.

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...DON'T FORGET THAT.

.....

EVEN AT THE BITTER END, YOU DIDN'T REALIZE...

LEE...

...IF YOUR TRIUMPH WERE A PYRRHIC VICTORY.

THE HEAVENS WOULD NEVER ALLOW YOU TO ADVANCE FURTHER...

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……!

!

WELCOME BACK, GAARA...

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GUY...

!

...!

PAIN

!

...I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP LEE EITHER.

...I WAS PRETTY COCKY EARLIER, BUT... TO BE HONEST...

...IF I'D BEEN IN YOUR POSITION...

GUY...

LET'S GO BACK UPSTAIRS...

WE'RE IN THE WAY.

.....

YEAH...

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BOTH CON-TESTANTS, PLEASE STEP FORWARD!

WELL... IT'S THE FINALE... THE 10TH ROUND BATTLE.

WHEN YOU HUNTED DOWN SASUKE IN THE FOREST AND, INSTEAD OF KILLING HIM, YOUR CURSE MARK...

I THINK I FINALLY UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU WERE UP TO...

IN ANY CASE, I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT TO THE FINALS AND FIGHT SASUKE...

OTHERWISE I'LL FAIL TO MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS LORD OROCHIMARU.

LOOKS LIKE I'M LAST...

TO TEST HIS ABILITIES AND EXPERIENCE THEM FIRST-HAND. WHAT YOU WANT IS NOT SASUKE'S LIFE, BUT SASUKE HIMSELF...

THE THREE OF US SERVED AS YOUR GUINEA PIGS. YOU SENT US AFTER SASUKE WITH ASSASSINATION ORDERS... BUT REALLY YOU JUST INTENDED FOR US TO FIGHT HIM...

YOU'VE BEEN TOYING WITH ME, TOO...

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UH... WELL... LET THE 10TH ROUND BATTLE BEGIN!

UGH..! SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

I'M GONNA END THIS MATCH FAST SO I CAN COME BEAT YOU UP!

GO GET HIM!

YOU CAN DO IT, FATSO!!

...I'LL DISPENSE WITH THE GAMES AND QUICKLY FINISH IT FOR YOU, FATSO!

...WELL THEN...

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NINJA TECHNIQUE BAIKANO JUTSU! THE ART OF EXPAN-SION!!

YOU MUMMIFIED, RAIN-PONCHO-WEARING CREEP...!

I FOUGHT YOU BEFORE, SO I ALREADY KNOW YOUR WEAKNESSES!

YOU RELEASE SOUND WAVES FROM THOSE HOLES IN YOUR ARM, SO...

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AS LONG AS I PROTECT MY EARS...

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I'M PLEAS-INGLY PLUMP!!

NIKUDAN SENSHA! THE HUMAN JUGGER-NAUT!!

ALL RIGHT! CRUSH HIM, CHOJI!!

.....

CHOJI'S HEAD IS BURIED WITHING HIS BODY SO HIS EARS ARE COMPLETELY PLUGGED UP...

HOW CAN THIS GUY USE SOUND TO ATTACK AN EARLESS, ROTATING MEATBALL?

THAT'S WHEN HIS ENEMY'S EARS ARE EXPOSED.

HE USES SOUND TO ATTACK WITHOUT EVER BEING IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIS OPPONENT, BUT...

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PLINK

YOU'RE DONE FOR!

NO...

WAAAH!!

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OH!!

AS LONG AS HE CEASED THOSE VEXING ROTATIONS, COULD TARGET THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF HIS EARDRUMS, AND...

OVER 70% OF THE HUMAN BODY IS COMPOSED OF WATER... A GREAT CONDUCTOR OF SOUND. SO IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO TRANSMIT SHOCK WAVES THROUGH A WALL OF FLESH.

DOSU KINUTA!!

WE HAVE A WINNER!!

I AM NOT JUST YOUR GUINEA PIG!

GRIP

I'LL SHOW YOU...

OR RATHER... OROCH-IMARU...

LORD OROCH-IMARU...

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HE EVEN WENT EASY ON HIM...

WELL... HE LOST, BUT I GUESS I'LL STILL TAKE HIM OUT FOR BARBECUE.

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

I...I WANT...

...TO EAT MEAT...

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IT'S FINALLY OVER..

PHEW...

...THE FINALS ...

AT LAST...

...ARE NOW COMPLETE!

UH... WELL THEN, AS OF THIS MOMENT, THE PRELIMINARIES TO THE THIRD EXAM...

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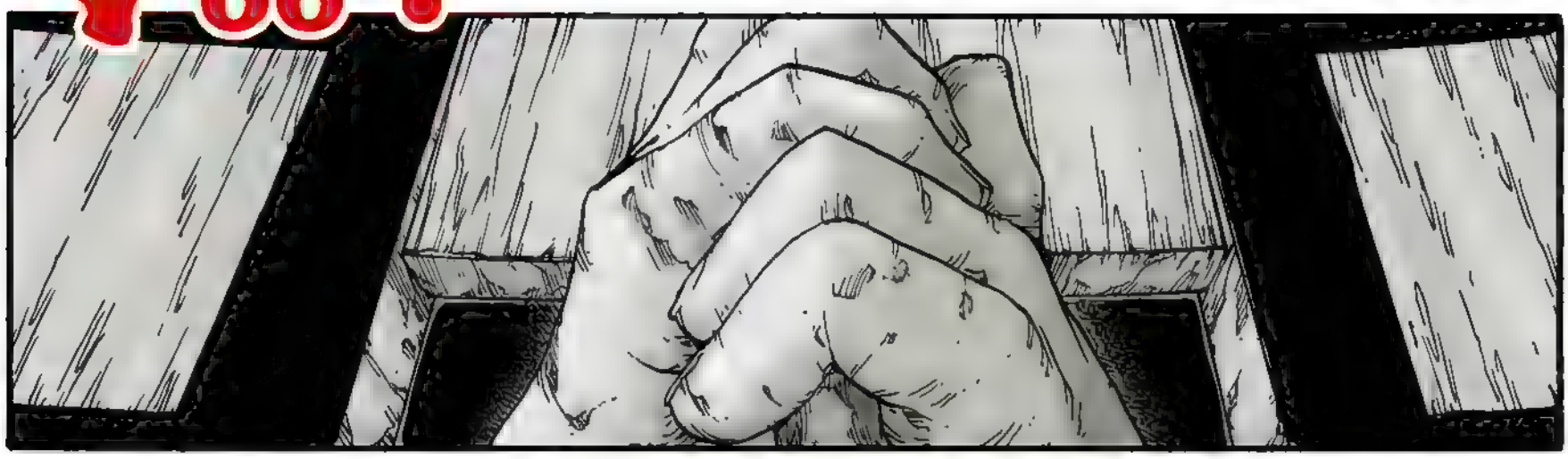

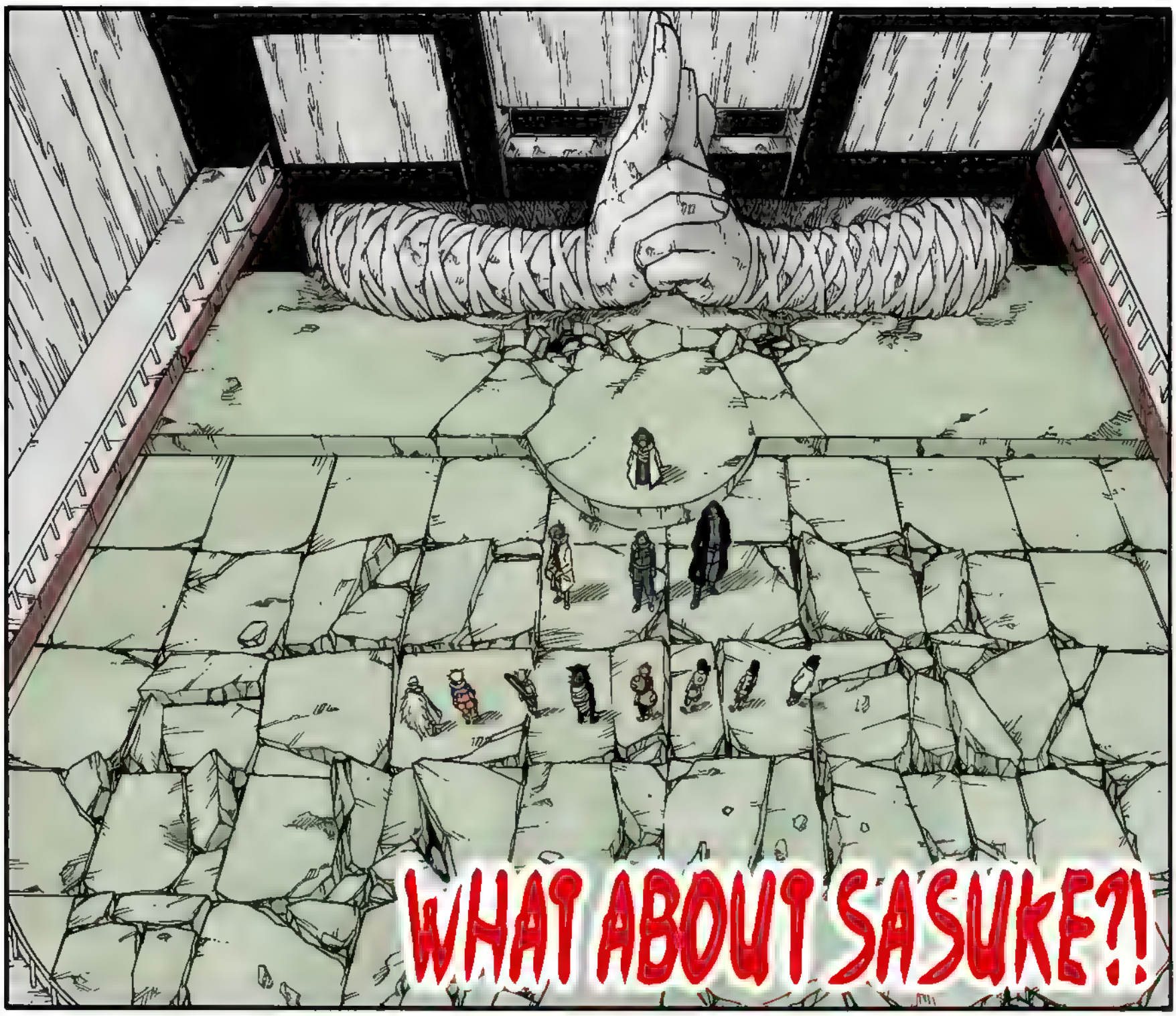

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CONGRATULATIONS!

...ALTHOUGH ONE OF YOU ISN'T HERE...

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO WON YOUR BOUTS AND QUALIFIED FOR THE FINALS OF THE THIRD PHASE OF THE CHÛNIN EXAM...

!

MASTER KAKASHI...

.....

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WELL...

UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH YET, EITHER...

BUT... DON'T BE TOO WORRIED.

...I...

I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...

...SOMETHING ABOUT SASUKE...?

IT'S UP TO SASUKE NOW.

WHATEVER COMES NEXT...

UH...

OKAY...

HUH?

SAKURA, I'M GOING TO STEP OUT FOR A LITTLE BIT, SO...

...LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE EXPLANATION OF THE FINALS FOR ME, OKAY...?

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.....

UH... WELL, LORD HOKAGE... THEY'RE ALL YOURS.

YES...

...THREE SAND NINJA... AND ONE SOUND... HMM.

INCLUDING THE ABSENT UCHIHA SASUKE, THERE ARE... FIVE KONOHA...

...I SHALL BEGIN EXPLAINING THE FINALS...

WELL THEN... STARTING NOW...

OKAY! FINALLY!!

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I WONDER HOW IT TURNED OUT...

...FOR NARUTO...

!

TRYING TO PLAY HOOKY AGAIN, HUH?

HEY!! KONOHAMARU!!

I...I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM, SIR!!

MASTER IRUKA'S BEEN TOTALLY DISTRACTED LATELY, SO THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

HEY, LET'S SNEAK OUT NOW WHILE WE CAN!

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!

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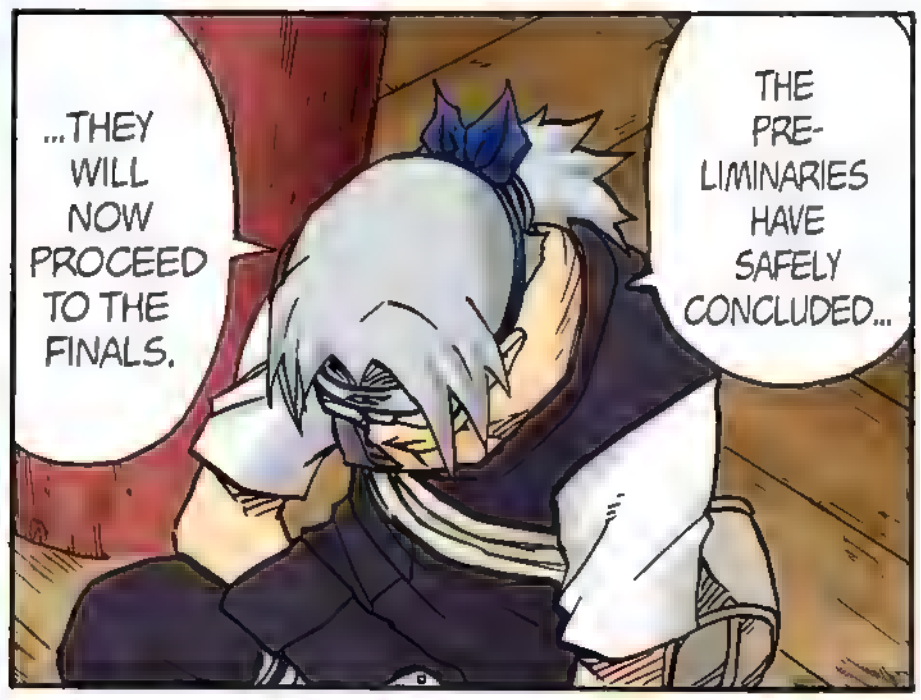

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...WHILE ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE BUSY WITH MILITARY EXPANSION RACES...

...HOW NAIVELY PEACEFUL THIS NATION HAS BECOME...

チュン チュン

HOW TRANQUIL... OR RATHER..

...ARE YOU SO SURE OF YOURSELF...?

SO IF WE STRIKE NOW...?

スッ

ALTHOUGH I DOUBT IT WOULD BE ANY FUN TO KILL THAT FEEBLE OLD GEEZER..

WELL, YES...

.....

...IT STILL SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE FALTERING...

TO ME...

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

OTOGAKURE, THE HIDDEN SOUND VILLAGE, WILL BE ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED...

SOON, THE POWERS OF EACH HIDDEN VILLAGE WILL COLLIDE AND ENTER A FIERCE, LENGTHY CONFLICT...

...AND YOU'RE PLANNING TO BE THE TRIGGER OF THAT...

...UCHIHA SASUKE, WASN'T IT...?

...HE'S A BULLET, RIGHT?

AND TO THAT END, THAT BOY...

...BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT DOSU, ZAKU AND KIN.

WELL, OBVIOUSLY NOT...

HEH...

I MADE A FOOLISH TACTICAL ERROR... I EVEN PROVOKED THEM INTO ATTACKING ME...

...AND OVER-ESTIMATED MY OWN DEFENSES.

WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ON SASUKE...

...I WANTED TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF THOSE THREE SOUND NINJA.

YOUR INSIGHTS ARE DISGUSTINGLY ACCURATE...

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IT SEEMS... YOU STILL DON'T PUT YOUR FULL TRUST IN ME...

...ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

.....

YOU'RE MY RIGHT-HAND MAN... THAT ITSELF IS EVIDENCE OF MY TRUST.

THOSE THREE ARE SO INCONSEQUENTIAL... IS IT REALLY NECESSARY FOR ME TO TELL YOU OF SUCH TRIVIALITIES?

...I WAS THINKING OF ENTRUSTING SASUKE TO YOU...

THAT'S WHY...

BUT BEFORE THE DARKNESS IN HIS SOUL IS EXTINGUISHED...

...NOT THAT IT'S OF MUCH CONSEQUENCE.

THE CURSE MARK I PUT ON HIM... IT SEEMS IT'S BEEN SEALED BY THAT PESKY KAKASHI...

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HOW UNLIKE YOU...

YOU'RE WORRIED!

THERE IS SOMETHING CAUSING ME A BIT OF CONCERN...

YOU MEAN... UZUMAKI NARUTO?

...I WANT YOU TO KIDNAP HIM RIGHT AWAY.

...HE CAME AT ME WITHOUT ANY FEAR OF DEATH.

AND YET... WHEN WE FOUGHT EACH OTHER.. EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW HE COULDN'T PREVAIL AGAINST ME...

AND I HADN'T THOUGHT HE WAS A CHILD WHO WOULD RUSH SO EAGERLY TO HIS DEMISE...

SASUKE IS AN EMBODIMENT OF VENGEANCE... HIS SOLE REASON FOR LIVING IS THE DESIRE TO KILL HIS OLDER

HEH... A SHARP CHILD, INDEED...

UNTIL HE ACHIEVES THAT GOAL, HE CANNOT DIE.

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SINCE NARUTO POSSESSES SO MUCH INFLUENCE OVER SASUKE...

ACCORDING TO YOUR NOTES, IT SEEMS THAT HIS CONTACT WITH THE NINE-TAILED FOX CHILD...

...I MUST SEPARATE THEM IMMEDIATELY...

...IS CHANGING SASUKE'S PURPOSE AND HIS SOUL.

AS SOON AS I CAN, I'VE GOT TO STAIN HIM WITH MY COLORS...

WELL THEN...

KABUTO... YOU...

IF YOU WANT TO STOP ME...

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...YOUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO KILL SASUKE NOW.

EVEN IF YOU'RE STRONG...

YOU'RE NO STRONGER THAN KAKASHI, SO...

THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD KILL ME, EH?

!!

.....

I'M PUTTING MY TRUST IN YOU...

NOW... YOU MAY GO!

ゴク

HEH... I'M JOKING...

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I WON-DER WHAT HES THINK-ING...

HEH... THAT FACE ...

EACH OF YOU REPRESENTS THE BATTLE STRENGTHS OF YOUR RESPECTIVE LANDS...

...SO WE WANT YOU TO EXHIBIT AND FULLY SHOWCASE YOUR VARIOUS TALENTS.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, YOU WILL CONDUCT YOUR FINAL ROUND BATTLES IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.

...WILL COMMENCE ONE MONTH FROM NOW!

AND THUS THE FINALS...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WE CALL THIS THE REQUISITE PREPARATION PERIOD...

WE'RE NOT DOING IT RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW?

!

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...AND IT ALSO SERVES AS A PREPARATION PERIOD FOR YOU APPLICANTS.

WELL...

IT'S A PERIOD OF TIME THAT ALLOWS US TO RELAY THE RESULTS OF THE PRELIMINARIES TO THE RULERS AND SHINOBI LEADERS OF EACH LAND... AND TO SUMMON THEM TO THE FINALS...

YOU MUST PREPARE TO UNDERSTAND YOUR ENEMY AND UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.

I STILL DON'T GET IT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THIS OLD GEEZER, HE ALWAYS BEATS AROUND THE BUSH...

...WELL, YEAH...!

I NEVER DREAMED THAT THIS GUY WOULD USE SAND AS A WEAPON...

EVEN THOUGH, UP TO THIS POINT, ALL THE BATTLES HAVE BEEN REAL BATTLES...

DURING THIS PERIOD, YOU CAN ANALYZE THE INTELLIGENCE YOU HAVE GATHERED ON YOUR FOES DURING THE PRELIMINARIES...

...AND USE IT TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF VICTORY.

...THEY WERE CONDUCTED ON THE PREMISE THAT YOU WERE FIGHTING AN "UNKNOWN ENEMY"...

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EACH OF YOU MUST EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE HARD, LEARN SOME NEW TRICKS...

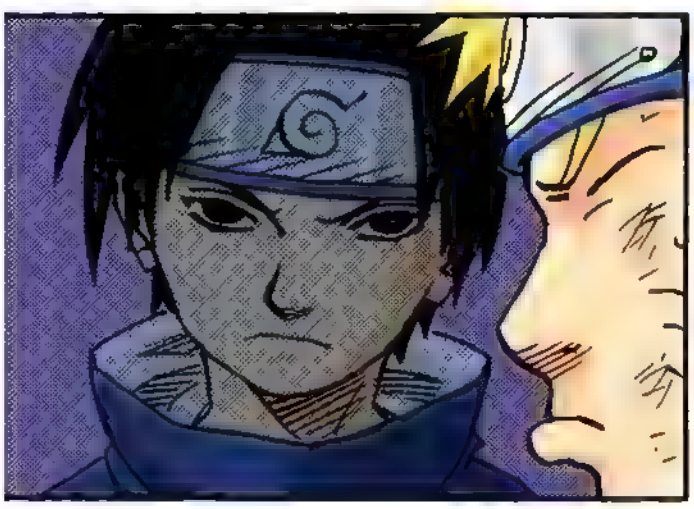
IN ORDER TO MAKE THE FINALS FAIR AND JUST, WE GIVE YOU THIS MONTH.

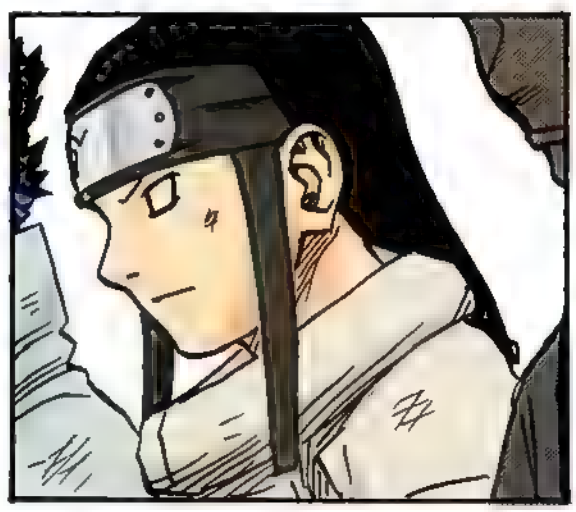
...AND OF COURSE GET SOME REST, AS WELL!

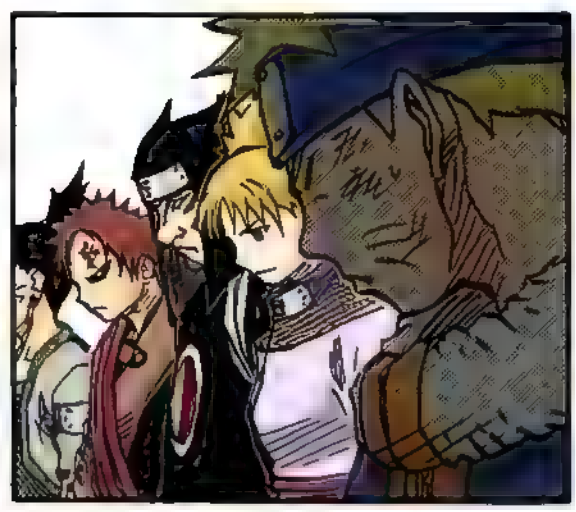
SOME OF YOU PROBABLY ENDED UP EXPOSING EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT IN FRONT OF YOUR RIVALS...

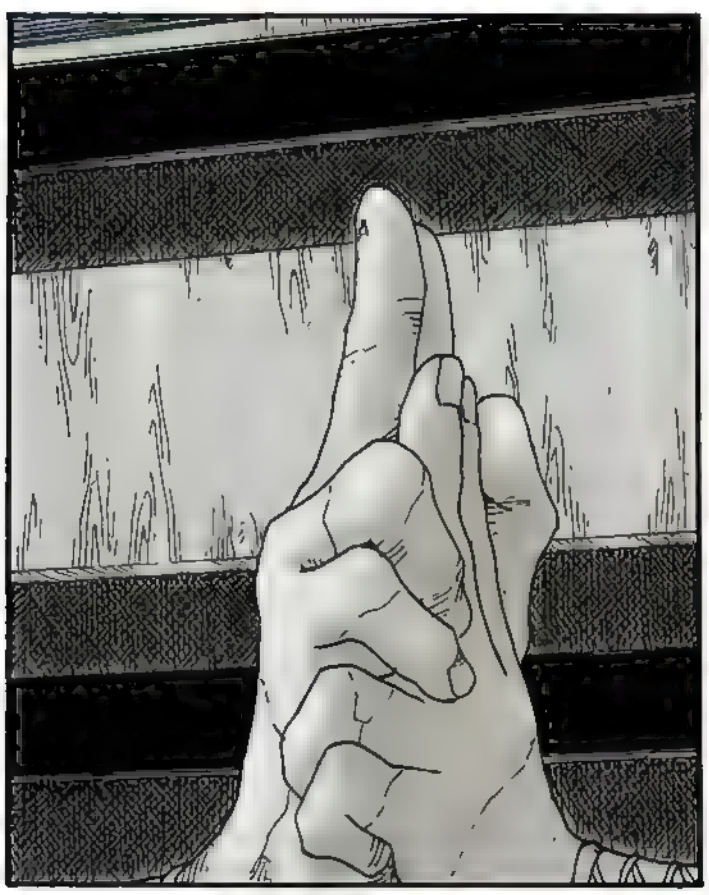
HOWEVER, THE FINALS ARE A DIFFERENT STORY...

...AND SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE GONE UP AGAINST COMPARATIVELY STRONG OPPONENTS AND FOUND YOURSELVES BADLY INJURED.









JUST ONE MONTH... THERE'S NO WAY I'LL HAVE THE LUXURY OF ANY RELAXATION!

AT THIS RATE, IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH...

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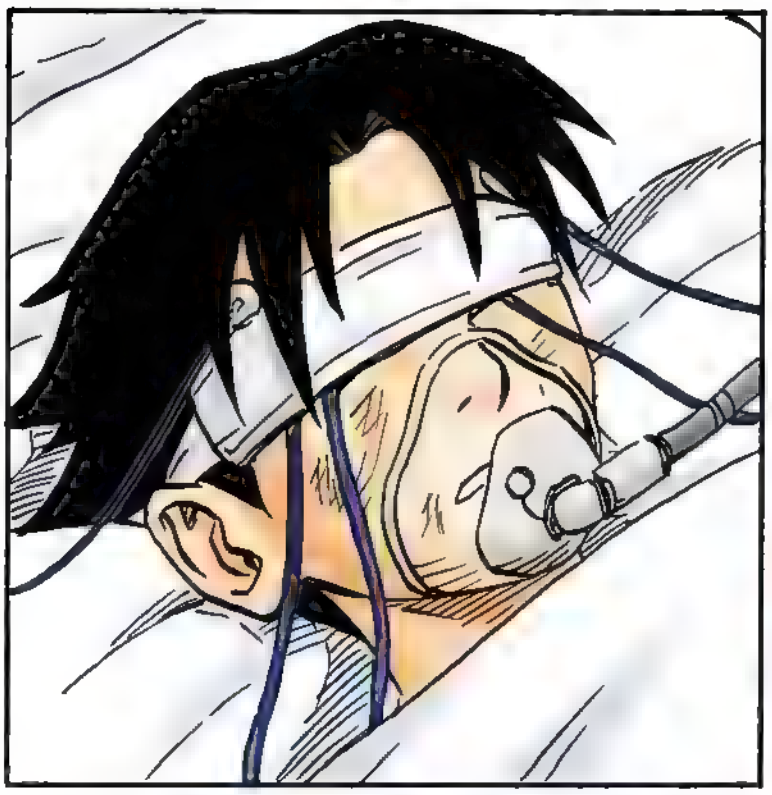

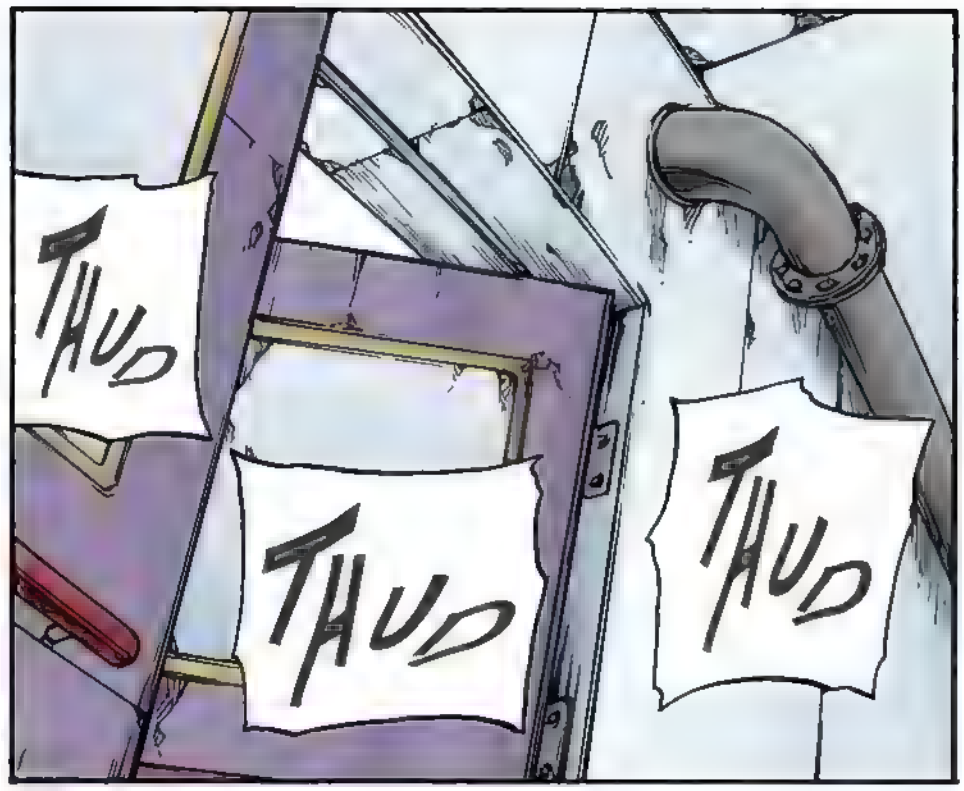

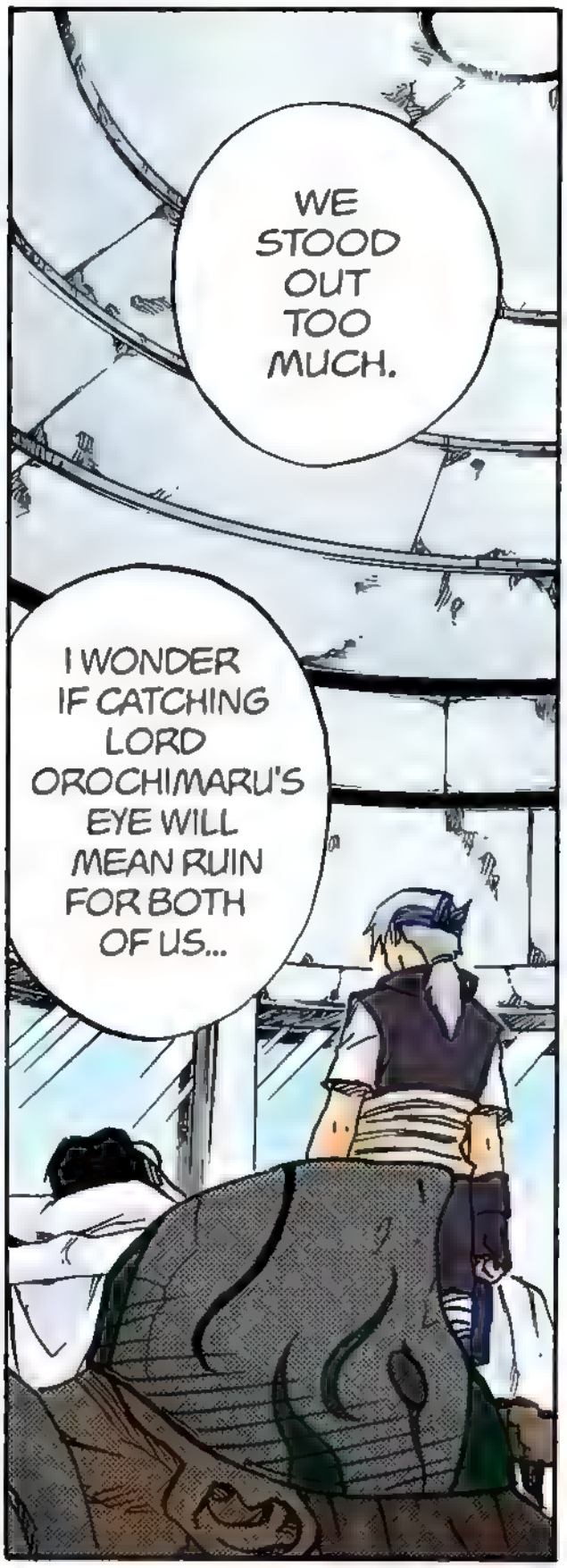

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KABUTO...

HE'S SO YOUNG... HOW COULD HE HAVE THIS DEMON DWELLING IN HIS HEART? IT WILL SERVE ***HIS*** PURPOSES NICELY...

...WHEN HE EVENTUALLY USES THAT TECHNIQUE TO MAKE THIS KID INTO...

...KILL SASUKR AFTER ALL...

PERHAPSE YOU REALLY WILL...

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SNATCH

...WOULD THINK TO STOP MY ATTACK FROM MY BLIND SPOT...

ONLY YOU, KAKASHI...

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YOU MADE YOUR ATTACK IMMEDIATELY UPON NOTICING MY PRESENCE... YOU'RE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.

YOU'RE NO ORDINARY GENIN, ARE YOU...?

YOU...

I WONDER IF YOU CAN...?

DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES...

...I'LL HAVE TO ARREST AND INTERROGATE YOU.

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH SASUKE?

NO...

I'M NOT SO GREAT...

...SOMEONE LIKE YOU...?

YOU WANT TO TEST "SOMEONE LIKE ME"...?

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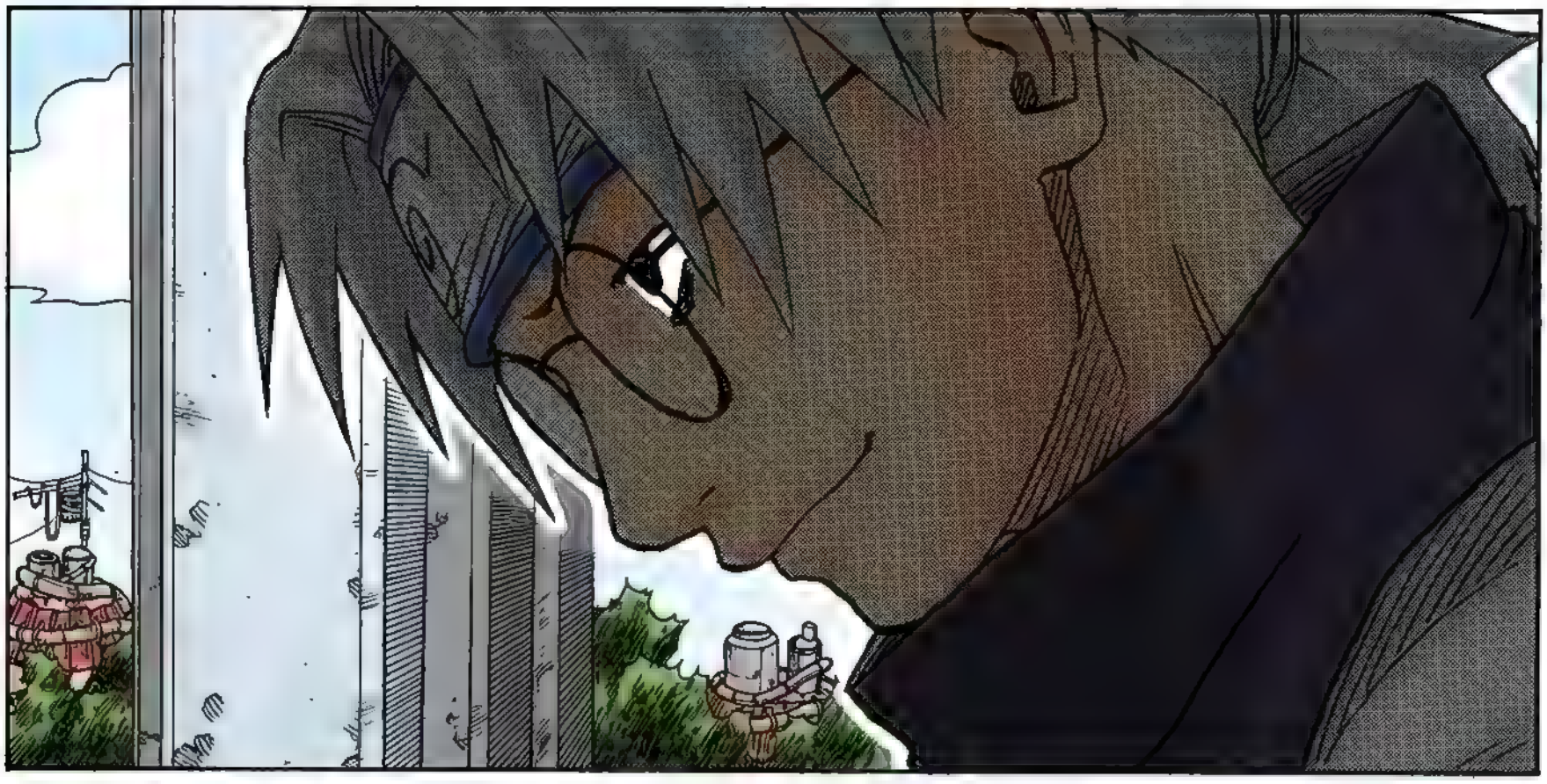

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WHAT ARE YOU?!

...A KONOHA NINJA DOCTOR, RIGHT? A PERPETUAL FAILURE OF A NINJA...

YOUR NAME IS... KABUTO, YES?

YOU'RE... THE SON OF...

HE SLAUGHTERED THEM ALL... AND WITH SUCH EASE!

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE BLACK OPS SOLDIERS I HAD GATHERED...

...AT LEAST 10 GUARDS.

...NEXT TIME, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY READY...

.....

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...SHOW SOME RESPECT.

I'M THE ONE ASKING THE QUESTIONS HERE...

.....

JUST SHUT UP AND ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

AND WHAT IF I REFUSE?

...IN LEAGUE WITH OROCHIMARU?

ARE YOU...

...WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET IT GO FOR NOW?

IT'LL ALL COME OUT EVENTUALLY, SO...

YOU... YOU'RE JUST A SELFISH LITTLE BRAT, AREN'T YOU...?

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF TORTURE OR GENJUTSU YOU INFLICT UPON ME, I WON'T SPILL A SINGLE SECRET...

IF YOU ARREST ME HERE, RIGHT NOW, YOU MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO PROVE MY CONNECTION TO OROCHIMARU.

AND BESIDES, I DON'T REALLY LIKE CONFRONTA-TIONS.

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...YOU SHOULDN'T MOCK YOUR SUPERIORS.

...THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE IN MY FAVOR..

YOU'RE ACTING AWFULLY SMUG, CONSIDERING...

YOU KNOW THE LAWS OF THIS VILLAGE...

...HOW SPIES ARE DEALT WITH.

!

YOU WON'T JUST RELEASE ME, THEN?

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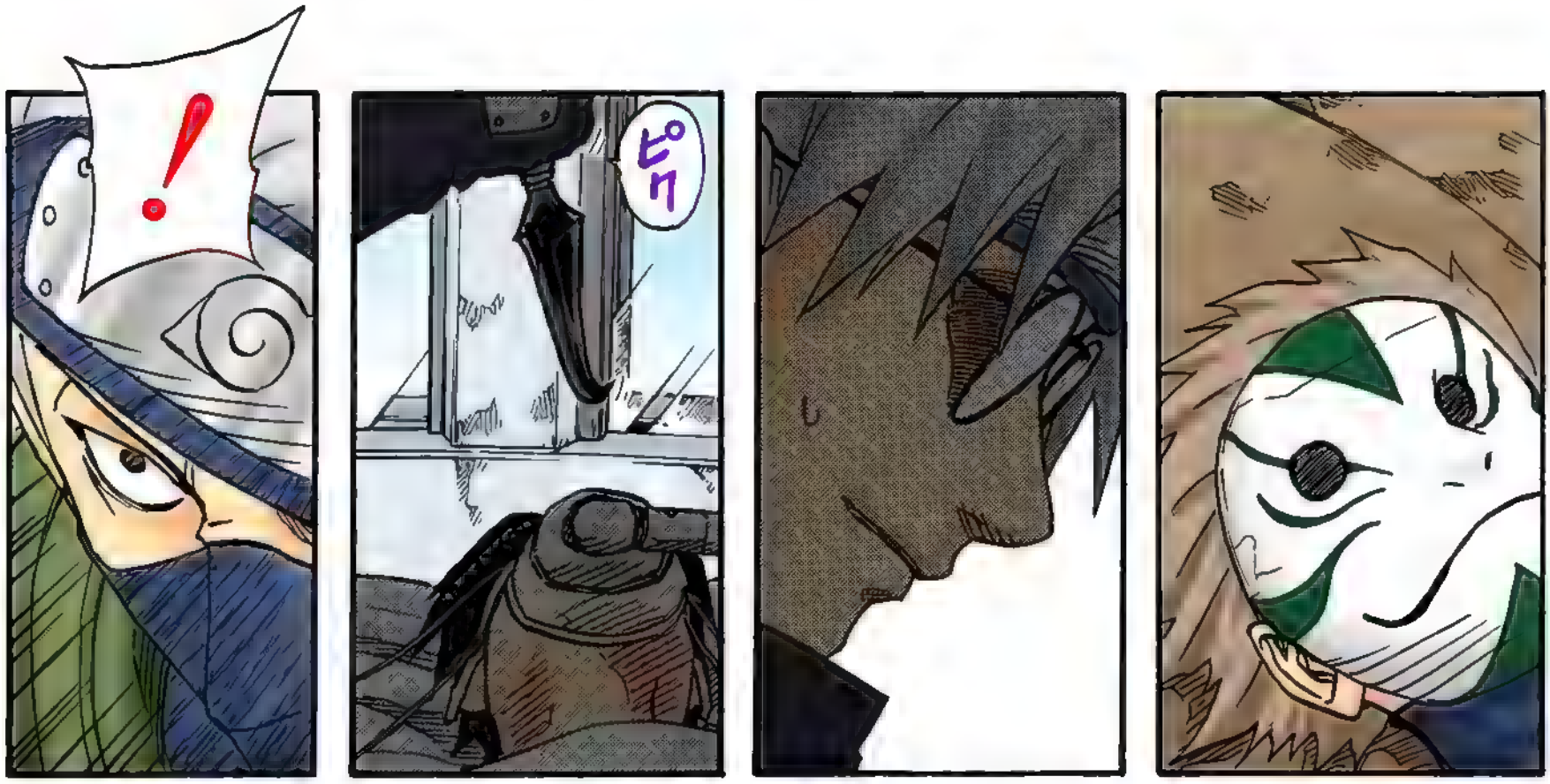

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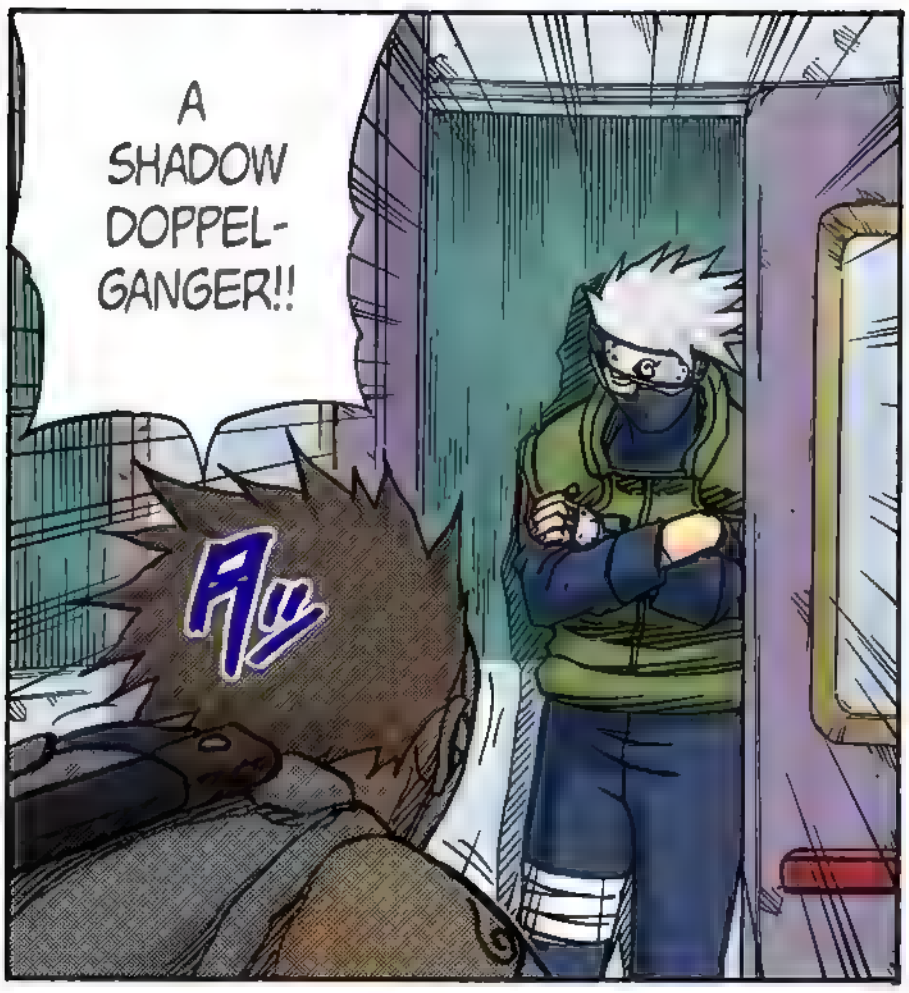
A SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!
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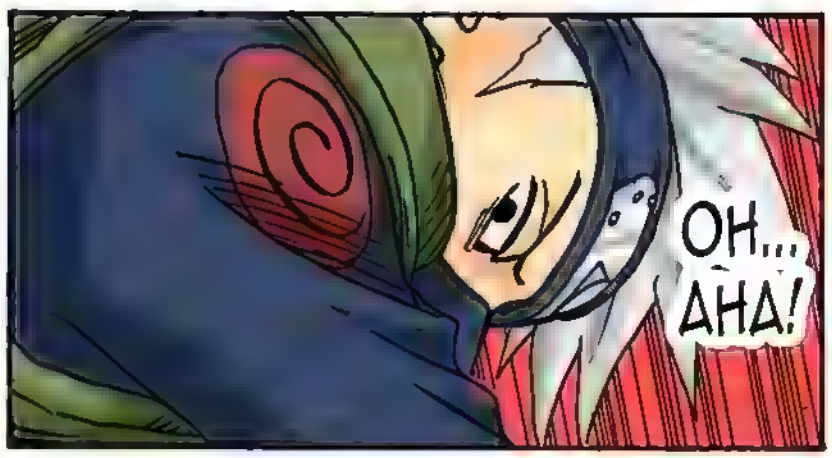
OH... AHA!

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UGH...
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DARN IT... HE GOT AWAY...

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AMAZ-ING...

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...IN THE WAY HE ENJOYS TRIFLING WITH CORPSES...

THE INFLUENCE OF HIS ADOPTIVE FATHER, THE CHIEF OF THE MEDICAL CORPS, IS OBVIOUS...

I'M AMAZED... HE WAS SO THOROUGH IN HIS DECEPTION THAT HE EVEN ERASED THE DEAD BODY'S ODOR..

AND HE STILLED HIS OWN HEARTBEAT... DISGUISING HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE BLACK OPS SOLDIERS HE HAD KILLED... TO ALLOW HIS ESCAPE.

JUST AS I THOUGHT... *SHIKON NO JUTSU*... THE ART OF DEAD SOULS, USED TO TEMPORARILY RESTORE A CADAVER'S HEART BEAT AND MANIPULATE THE CORPSE...

HE SURGICALLY ALTERED THE FACE... TO MAKE IT RESEMBLE HIS OWN...!

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SO... THOSE ARE THE BASICS.

IF SUCH A TALENTED PERSON IS WORKING UNDER OROCHIMARU THEN...

AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE OBSOLETE SOON, TOO...

HIS MOVES WOULD PUT EVEN THE UNDERTAKER SQUAD TO SHAME...

I'LL COME AROUND, SO LINE UP, OKAY?

NOW THEN, DON'T BE SO IM-PATIENT...

THERE ARE SLIPS OF PAPER INSIDE THE BOX ANKO IS HOLDING... EACH OF YOU, TAKE ONE.

...THERE'S ONE LAST THING WE MUST DO FOR THE FINALS.

I WOULD LIKE TO LET YOU ALL GO NOW, BUT FIRST...

I NEED TO START TRAINING NOW!!

HEY, COME ON!

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ONE PER PERSON!

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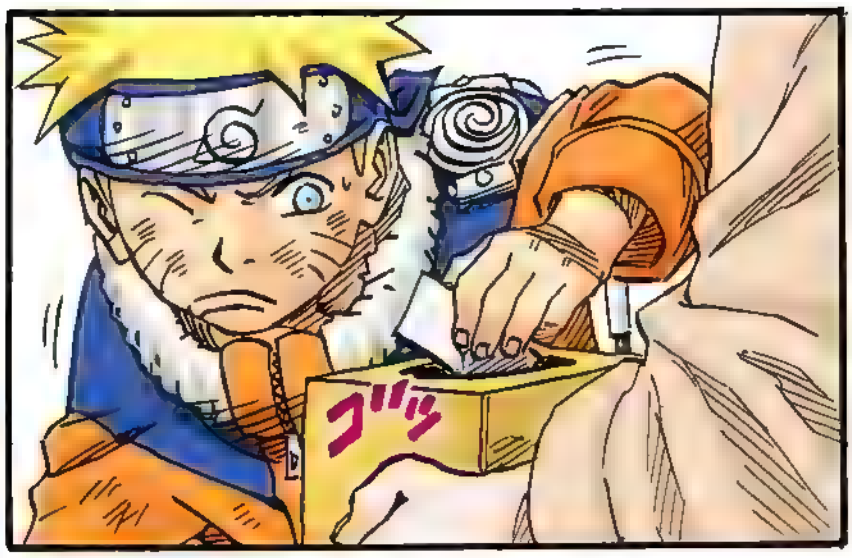

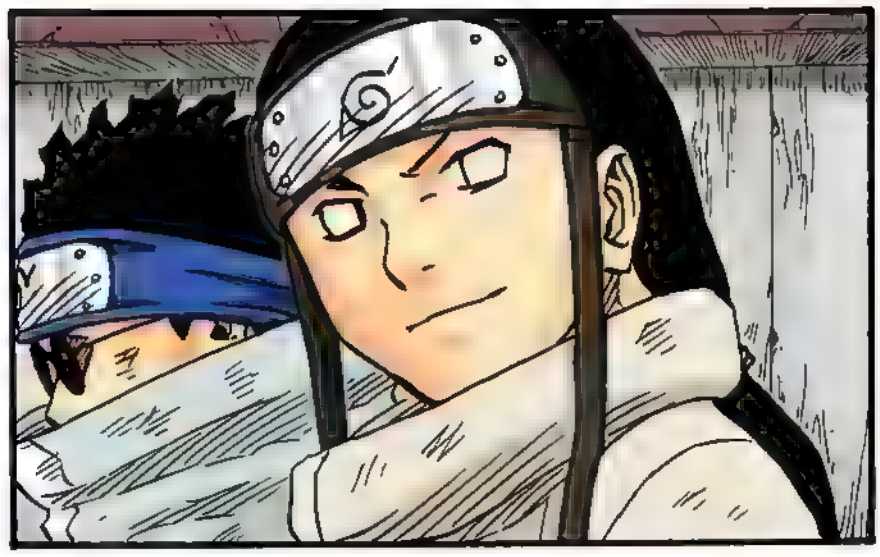

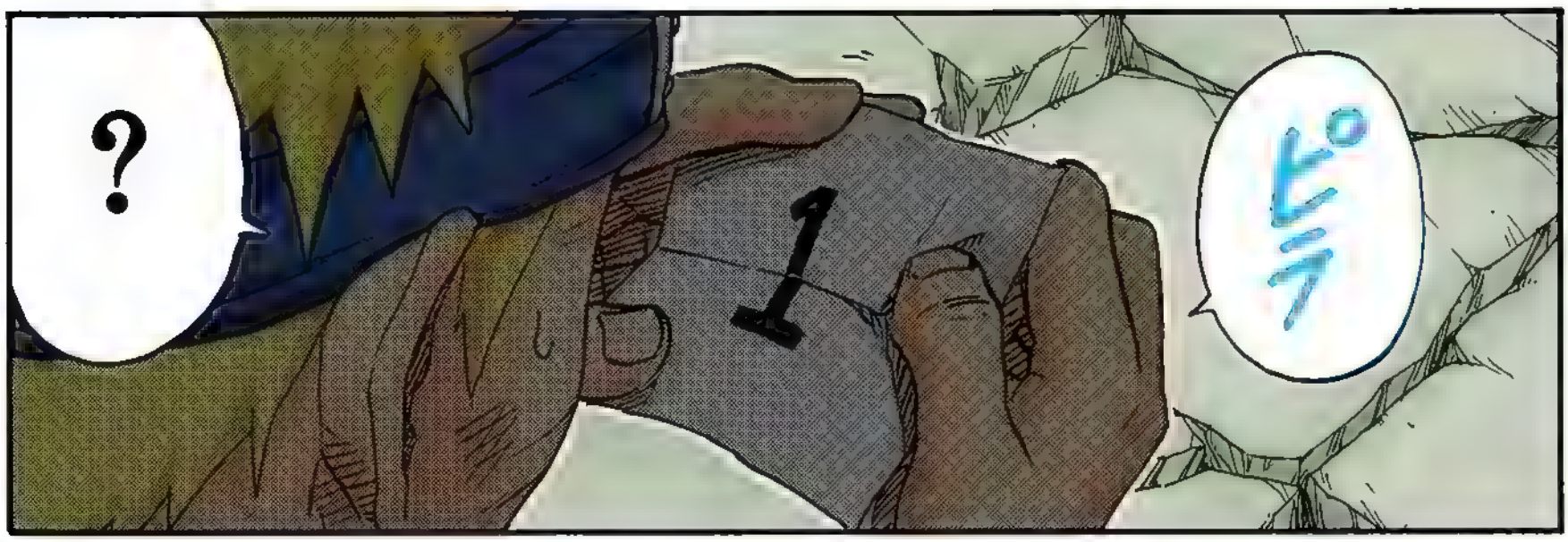

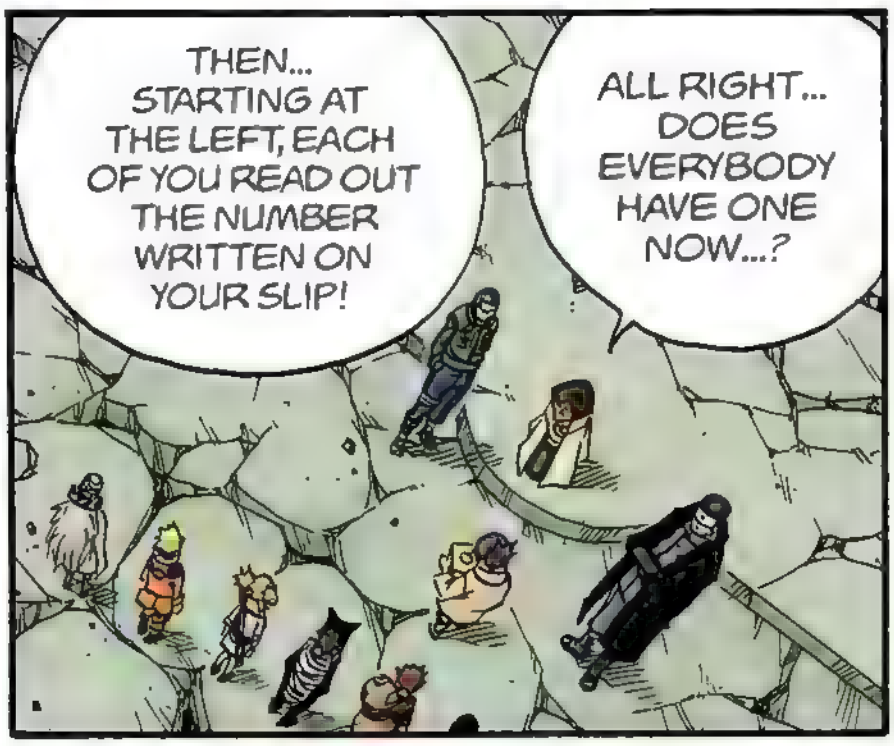

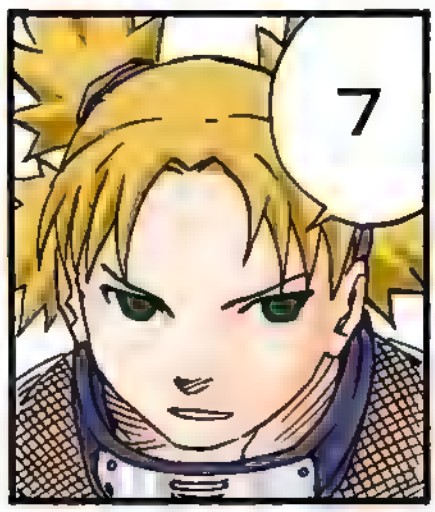

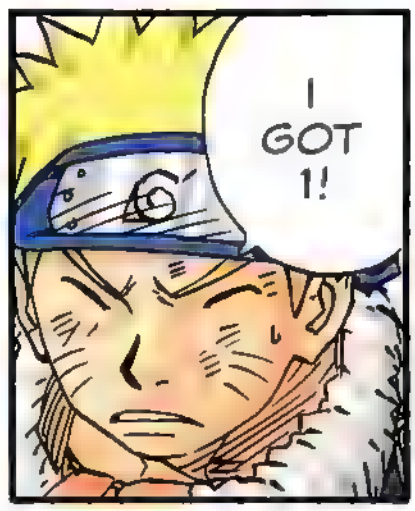

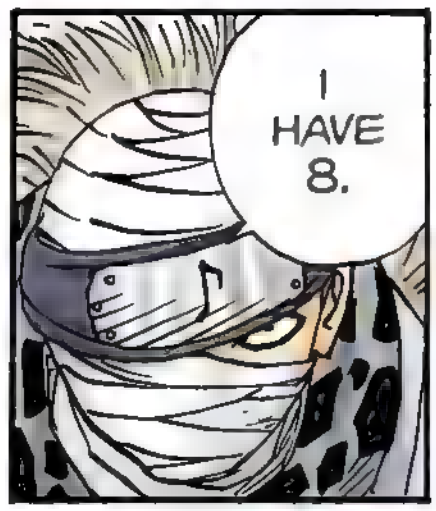

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3

...THE MATCH ORDER FOR THE TOURNAMENT-STYLE FINALS!!

AND NOW I WILL REVEAL...

GOOD!

SO UCHIHA WILL BE NUMBER 4...

SO THAT'S WHAT THE DRAWING WAS FOR?!

WHAT?!

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WELL, IBIKI, SHOW THEM THE PAIRINGS.

YES SIR..

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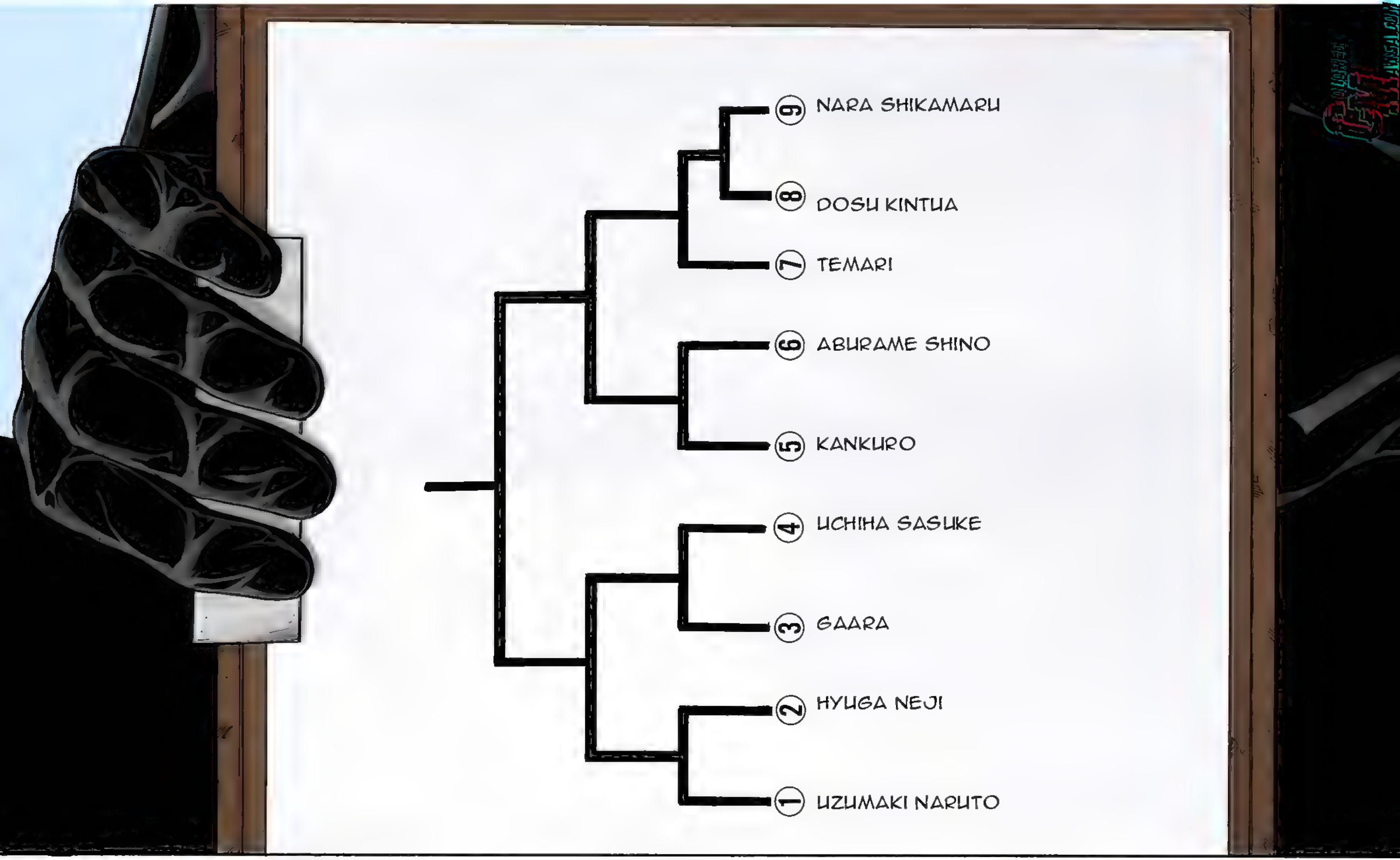
9 NARA SHIKAMARU
8 DOSU KINTUA
7 TEMARI
6 ABURAME SHINO
5 KANKURO
4 UCHIHA SASUKE
3 GAARA
2 HYUGA NEJI
1 UZUMAKI NARUTO

AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO AVENGE CHOJI... NO THANKS!

MAN, I'VE GOT TO FIGHT AN EXTRA ROUND.

THE FINALS ARE JUST A SIMPLE TOURN-AMENT...?

WHAT?

MY MATCH COMES LATE IN THE GAME...

PERFECT.

UCHIHA... SASUKE...

I'M IN A DIFFERENT BRACKET THAN GAARA...

THANK GOODNESS.

SIGH...

I NEVER DREAMED OF A BETTER OPPONENT!

HYUGA NEJI, RIGHT OFF THE BAT?

MAY I?

SURE!

WE'RE ALL FINISHED HERE... UNLESS ANY OF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

NOW THEN... IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO PLAN YOUR STRATEGIES, REST UP, OR WHATEVER YOU PLEASE.

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THEN... DOES THAT MEAN ONLY ONE PERSON GETS TO BECOME A CHÛNIN?

YOU SAID THIS IS A TOURNAMENT, SO...

...THERE'S ONLY ONE WINNER, RIGHT...?

...AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE DEEMED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT ABILITY TO BE A JOURNEYMAN NINJA...

BASED ON YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE TOURNAMENT, THOSE JUDGES WILL ASSIGN YOU AN ABSOLUTE VALUE...

FOR THE FINALS, YOU WILL BE OBSERVED BY MANY JUDGES... NOT ONLY ME, BUT...

...THE KAZEKAGE* AND THE RULERS AND SHINOBI LEADERS OF COUNTRIES THAT WILL BE REQUESTING MISSIONS, AS WELL.

NO! THAT'S NOT THE CASE.

*THE LEADER OF THE VILLAGE OF SUNAGAKURE (THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN SAND).

...IT'S POSSIBLE THAT ALL OF US HERE COULD BECOME CHÛNIN?

DO YOU MEAN...

...CAN BECOME CHÛNIN.

...EVEN THOSE WHO MAY HAVE LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND...

YES.

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DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, SHIKAMARU?!

GEEZ... HE DIDN'T HAVE TO THROW IT BACK IN MY FACE...

...THAT NONE OF YOU WILL BECOME CHÛNIN!

HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE...

...IS IN HAVING A GREATER NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES TO DISPLAY YOUR TALENTS FOR THE JUDGES.

THE ADVANTAGE OF FIGHTING IN MORE ROUNDS IN THE TOURNAMENT...

YOU ARE DISMISSED UNTIL ONE MONTH FROM NOW!

WELL THEN, GOOD WORK, ALL!

HE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO WIPE THE FLOOR WITH BUSHY BROW, SO...

MY SECOND ROUND WILL BE AGAINST EITHER THAT BROWLESS SAND GUY OR SASUKE...?

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YOU'RE ONE OF THE ONES I WANT TO FIGHT...

NARUTO!!

SAS-UKE... AGAINST THAT GUY...?

I'D BETTER ASK MASTER KAKASHI FOR HELP!

.....

...WITH SASUKE!

HE'S PROBABLY...

SAKURA!! WHERE'S MASTER KAKASHI?!

!

.....

THANKS, SAKURA!

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BUT... WHY?!

VISITING HOURS ARE OVER.

HEY! WHERE'S SASUKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM?!

SORRY... HOSPITAL POLICY.

KONOHA HOSPITAL

HEY! I NEED A FAVOR!

STOP RIGHT THERE... I ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO ASK, SO...

OH! MASTER KAKASHI!!

NARUTO, YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL! BE QUIET!

...I COULDN'T GIVE YOU MY FULL ATTENTION.

I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS GOING ON...

HUH?!

I WANT YOU TO TRAIN ME, MASTER KAKASHI!

I'VE FOUND SOMEONE TO OVERSEE YOUR TRAINING.

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NOW, NOW! DON'T COMPLAIN.

I FOUND YOU AN EVEN BETTER TEACHER THAN ME.

LET ME GUESS! YOU'RE TRAINING SASUKE, RIGHT?!

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YOU'RE...

HEY!

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IT IS !!!

WHO IS IT?!

HOW RUDE!

...SUPER-PERV!!

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90：

WHAT ABOUT MY TRAINING?!

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...A SUPER-PERV?

MASTER EBISU...

BESIDES, THIS GUY IS EVEN WEAKER THAN ME!

?

WHY WOULD YOU CHOOSE SUCH A LOSER TO BE MY TRAINER?!

!!

ドキッ

D...DON'T SAY IT!!

COME ON! I MEAN, ONE TIME HE EVEN FELL FOR MY NINJA HAREM TECHNIQUE, AND HE...

UH...UM... IT'S NOTHING, SIR! HA HA...

NINJA HAREM ...?

...SWEAR ON IT!

I'LL TREAT YOU TO WHATEVER YOU WANT LATER, SO...

...DON'T SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT IT, OK?!

MMPH !

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I SHALL NEVER FORGET THAT HUMILI-ATION...

HA HA... WELL, MAYBE OPPOSITES ATTRACT, OR...

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BUT... WHY HIM?!

THIS STINKS...

...WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU TWO KNEW EACH OTHER...

...YOU'RE THE WEAKEST AT THE BASICS.

AND, WELL... NARUTO, AMONG THE THREE GENIN IN CELL SEVEN...

THIS TIME, LISTEN CLOSELY AND LEARN IT RIGHT.

GRR!!

HEY! BOTH OF YOU... PLEASE...

INDEED! IF IT WEREN'T FOR KAKASHI'S REQUEST...

...I WOULD NEVER CHOOSE TO TEACH YOU!

HE'S A BETTER TEACHER THAN ME, I PROMISE!

NARUTO! MASTER EBISU IS AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE TUTOR WHO TEACHES THE ELITE... HE'S A SPECIAL JÔNIN!

...HOW IN THE WORLD DO I COME UP SHORT?!

WHOA THERE! COMPARED TO SAKURA AND SASUKE...

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...I BELIEVE THAT YOUR CHAKRA CONTROL IS SORELY IN NEED OF IMPROVE-MENT.

NARUTO... UPON OBTAINING YOUR INFORMATION FROM MASTER KAKASHI...

...AND CONDUCTING MY ANALYSIS...

SIGH...

.....

!?

PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK.

HERE, LET ME EXPLAIN WITH A SERIES OF SIMPLE DIAGRAMS.

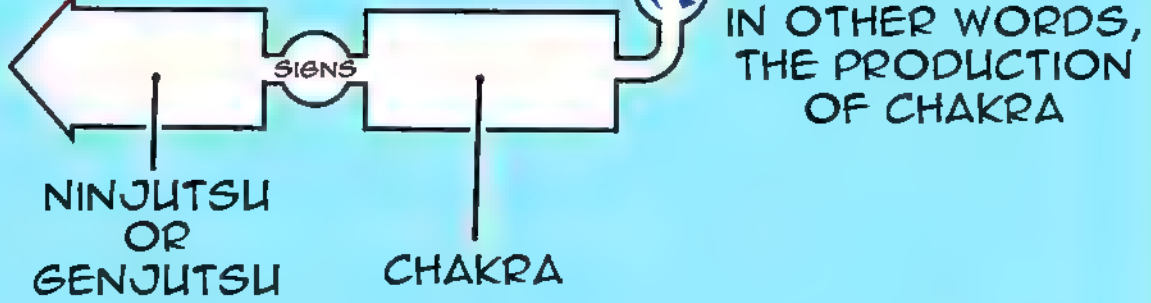
...PRIOR TO USE OF A TECHNIQUE.

THIS DIAGRAM REPRESENTS THE HEALTHY STATE OF FULL STAMINA...

...WHICH MOVE WITHIN THE BODY WHENEVER A NINJA USES NINJUTSU, TAIJUTSU OR GENJUTSU.

THESE SHOW, IN EASY TERMS, THE FLOW OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ENERGIES -- COLLECTIVELY CALLED "STAMINA"...

I ATE MY RAMEN! AND I SLEPT WELL I'M AT FULL POWER!!!



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KONOHA HURRICANE!!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA 30% 70%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU CHAKRA

[LEE USES 30% OF HIS STAMINA FOR THE TAIJUTSU HIS REMAINING STAMINA IS 70%]

HERE I GO!!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA 100%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU CHAKRA

...STAMINA CONTROL IS SIMPLE.

FIRST, IN THE CASE WHERE A NINJA IS GOING TO USE TAIJUTSU...

IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO EXPEND THE PRECISE AMOUNT OF STAMINA REQUIRED BY THAT PARTICULAR MOVE.

TAIJUTSU DO NOT REQUIRE SIGNS AT ALL, NOR, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, DO THEY REQUIRE CHAKRA.

HRMM!!!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA 70%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU ED 30% CHAKRA
PRODUCING CHAKRA

[NARUTO HAS CONTRIBUTED 30% OF HIS STAMINA TO THE CREATION OF CHAKRA. 70% OF HIS STAMINA REMAINS.]

I'M GOING TO MAKE CHAKRA!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA 100%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU ED CHAKRA

HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU...

...ONE MUST FIRST AMASS THE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE PARTICULAR TECHNIQUE!

SO IF YOUR STAMINA AND CHAKRA BOTH FELL TO 0%, YOU WOULD DIE!

OF COURSE, THE ENERGIES USED IN TAIJUTSU, NINJUTSU OR GENJUTSU ARE EXPENDED... AND THUS ARE LOST!

DING!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
← EXPENDED 0%
← EXPENDED SIGNS 0%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU CHAKRA

TAIJUTSU STAMINA 70%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU 10% ED 20% CHAKRA

[30% OF THE STAMINA WAS USED TO PRODUCE CHAKRA. ART OF THE DOPPELGANGER REQUIRES 10%.]

ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!

PATTERN 1

NEXT, ONE MUST USE COMPLEX SIGNS...

...TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE THE CHAKRA BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL TECHNIQUE!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA 70%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU 20% HENGE 10% CHAKRA

[THE ART OF TRANSFORMATION USES 20%]

PATTERN 2

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TAIJUTSU STAMINA
70%
印
30%
NINJUTSU CHAKRA
GENJUTSU
[SHE CONVERTS EXACTLY 30%]

EASY!

FIRST, IN SAKURA'S CASE WHEN SHE INITIATES THIS TECHNIQUE, SHE IS ABLE TO CONVERT PRECISELY 30% OF HER STAMINA INTO CHAKRA.

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
70%
30%
印
NINJUTSU CHAKRA
GENJUTSU
[SHE USES EXACTLY 30%]

HYAH!!

ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!

THEN, BECAUSE SHE CAN EXPERTLY CONTROL HER CHAKRA VOLUME AS WELL, WHEN SHE BEGINS MAKING HAND SIGNS...

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
70%
←放出 (ほうしゅつ)
印
NINJUTSU CHAKRA
GENJUTSU

THREE DOPPELGANGERS!

...SHE CAN CLEARLY PRODUCE THREE COPIES OF HERSELF... AND STILL HAVE 70% OF HER STAMINA LEFT FOR LATER USE!

NOW... BUILDING UPON THAT, LET ME BREAK DOWN THE ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER FURTHER.

LET'S SAY 30% OF YOUR CHAKRA IS NEEDED TO CREATE THREE DOPPEL-GANGERS.

YEP! OKAY!

HE KEEPS DRONING ON AND ON... AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND A BIT OF IT...

NEXT... IN SASUKE'S CASE...

AND HE CAN ALSO CREATE THREE OF HIMSELF, BUT...SINCE SASUKE CANNOT USET OR RECYCLE THE SURPLUS CHAKRA BACK INTO HIS STAMINA POOL. THAT EXTRA 10% GOES TO WASTE... AND HE ONLY HAS 60% OF HIS STAMINA LEFT IN RESERVE!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
60%
印
10%
NINJUTSU CHAKRA
GENJUTSU
[THE REMAINING STAMINA IS AT 60%...AND THE EXTRA CHAKRA IS WASTED]

HOWEVER, HIS CHAKRA CONTROL THROUGH THE USE OF SIGNS IS JUST AS SKILLED AS SAKURA'S, SO... NO PROBLEMS THERE...

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
60%
30%
印
10%
NINJUTSU CHAKRA
GENJUTSU
[HERE, HE'S JUST AS GOOD AS SAKURA]

HE'S NOT AS EFFICIENT AT CREATING CHAKRA, SO ALTHOUGH HE ONLY NEEDS 30%, HE PRODUCES 40% OR 10% MORE THAN REQUIRED.

HM!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
60%
印
40%
NINJUTSU CHAKRA
GENJUTSU
[HE PRODUCED 10% MORE THAN NECESSARY]

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WELL... YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO BE LAUGHING AT HIM!

AHA! SO SASUKE'S NOT SO GREAT AFTER ALL! HA HA!

SO YOU END UP WITH ONLY 50% LEFT IN RESERVE, WASTE 40% AND BARELY CREATE A SINGLE DOPPELGANGER! THIS IS HOW DIFFERENT THE THREE OF YOU ARE JUST COMPARING THE SAME TECHNIQUE!

HUH?

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
50%
←放出
ED
40%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU CHAKRA

[STAMINA REMAINING-50% WASTED CHAKRA-40%]

AND FURTHERMORE YOUR CHAKRA CONTROL FOR INITIATING TECHNIQUES THROUGH SIGNS IS SO POOR THAT YOU CAN ONLY USE 10% INSTEAD OF THE NECESSARY 30%.

ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
50%
10%
ED
40%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU CHAKRA

30% IS THE [FUNDAMENTALLY] REQUIRED AMOUNT

YOU ARE EVEN WORSE THAN SASUKE AT MANIPULATING CHAKRA, SO YOU END UP PRODUCING 50% INSTEAD OF THE REQUIRED 30%

RRROAR!!

TAIJUTSU STAMINA
50%
ED
50%
NINJUTSU GENJUTSU CHAKRA

[PRODUCES 20% MORE THAN NECESSARY]

...I WAS WAY BETTER THAN SAKURA OR SASUKE...!

力

BUT... BUT THERE'VE BEEN TIMES WHEN...

NARUTO, YOU PRODUCE TOO MUCH CHAKRA AND THUS EXPEND TOO MUCH ENERGY...

AND YOUR TECHNIQUE INITIATION IS ALSO UNSTABLE.

WELL, THIS SHOWS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOU THREE IN A SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATED WAY, BUT...

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!

...YOU JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE EXTRA-ORDINARY STAMINA.

THAT'S BECAUSE OUT OF THE THREE OF YOU...

.....

...BUT, THAT'S ALSO THE REASON HIS CHAKRA CONTROL IS SO ERRATIC.

IT'S THE INFLUENCE OF THE NINE-TAILED FOX THAT MAKES HIS STAMINA SO AMAZING...

.....

...YOU HAVE SO MUCH UNTAPPED POTENTIAL... GOOD LUCK...

SORRY TO ABANDON YOU, NARUTO, BUT...

NOW! LET'S GO!

OF COURSE.

WELL THEN, MASTER EBISU... THANK YOU.

ARGH!

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?

THESE HOT SPRINGS ARE WHERE WE SHALL TRAIN!!

NO!

WHY DID WE COME HERE, THEN?!

ARE WE GONNA TAKE A BATH BEFORE TRAINING?

HA HA...

?

WE'RE GOING TO TRAIN HERE?

WHAT THE HECK ARE WE GOING TO DO?

NOW... HERE WE ARE!

...WALK ON WATER!

WE'RE GOING TO...

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I MEAN, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER MUCH FROM WAY BACK THEN!

WHAT...?

THIS TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

MASTER KAKASHI TOLD ME THAT YOU'D ALREADY MASTERED THE NO-HANDS TREE CLIMBING EXERCISE.

HUH?!

BECAUSE THE TREE IS A STATIONARY OBJECT, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KEEP YOUR FOOT ATTACHED LIKE A SUCTION CUP...

IT'S AN EXERCISE THAT DEMONSTRATES HOW TO PRODUCE AND MAINTAIN A SET AMOUNT OF CHAKRA.

FIXED CHAKRA

FOR TREE CLIMBING, YOU ONLY NEED TO GATHER A REQUISITE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA IN THE REQUISITE PLACE...

...AND JUST MAINTAIN THAT SET VOLUME OF CHAKRA THE WHOLE TIME.

THIS TYPE OF CHAKRA CONTROL IS MORE DIFFICULT THAN MERE MAINTENANCE...

...AND IS A TYPE OF CONTROL EXERCISE WHERE YOU LEARN TO REGULATE YOUR EXPENDITURE OF A FIXED QUANTITY OF CHAKRA!

CONTINUOUS RELEASE OF CHAKRA

WATER

IN ORDER TO WALK ON WATER, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE TO CONTINUOUSLY EMIT A TINY AMOUNT OF CHAKRA FROM YOUR FEET INTO THE WATER'S SURFACE...

...CONSTANTLY ADJUSTING THAT AMOUNT TO JUST ALLOW YOUR BODY TO FLOAT.

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...YOU FINE-TUNE IT TO YOUR BODY WEIGHT...

THEN, WHILE YOU CONTINU-OUSLY EMIT A SET AMOUNT...

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WELL... IT'S PROBABLY EASIER TO JUST SHOW YOU...

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HMM... I DON'T GET IT!

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FIRST, YOU GATHER CHAKRA TO THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET.

WHOA!

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AND THEN RELEASE A SET AMOUNT...!

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FIRST, CHAKRA TO MY SOLES!

ALL RIGHT, I WANT TO TRY IT!

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JUST AS I EXPECTED...

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IF YOU KEEP SCREWING UP, YOU'LL TURN INTO A BOILED OCTOPUS!

I FORGOT TO MENTION IT, BUT THE WATER HERE IS 60 DEGREES CENTIGRADE...

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...AW, MAN!

HOT!!!

HOT!

HOT!!

OW OW OWWW!

I CAN DO THIS!!

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YOU'RE UNUSUALLY DILIGENT TODAY, HONORABLE GRANDSON!

HEH...

OH REALLY! YOU FINALLY UNDER-STAND...

...DOING AS I TELL YOU IS THE NUMBER ONE SHORTCUT TO BECOMING HOKAGE!

I'VE DECIDED TO STOP DOING THAT STUFF...

I SEE MY TEACHING PRINCIPLES HAVE FINALLY SUNK IN!

NORMALLY, THIS IS THE TIME OF DAY WHEN YOU GO MAKE SURPRISE ATTACKS ON LORD HOKAGE.

HM?

!

.....

THAT'S WHAT NARUTO SAID.

THERE AIN'T NO SHORTCUT!

HUF

HUF

...YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS, AND WORK HARD!

IF YOU WANT TO BECOME HOKAGE...

I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET IT!

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HEY!

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YOU ARE AN EVEN WISER TEACHER THAN I, AND...

IT SEEMS I HAD UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU...

...YOU ARE ALSO MORE THAN JUST A FOX DEMON...

...I NEVER IMAGINED HE WOULD HAVE MATURED THIS MUCH.

MY GOODNESS... HE'S GOTTEN THE KNACK OF THIS CHAKRA CONTROL EXERCISE SO QUICKLY...

...THERE ARE NO SHORT-CUTS IN LIFE.

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AND IT'S TRUE... NO MATTER THE CONTEXT...

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OH--!

YOU ARE TRULY...

...A SPLENDID KONOHA NINJA!

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ドボーン

WAAH!!

!

HEH HEH HEH...

HUH?

...I WILL NOT PERMIT ANY DISREPUT-ABLE BEHAVIOR!!

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I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU'RE FROM, BUT...

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HMPH!

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SHEESH...

AARGH!

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Y... YOU'RE ..!!

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YOU'LL GET US BUSTED... AND WHAT'LL WE DO THEN?!

DON'T MAKE A FUSS, EH...? SHEESH.

WH...WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO THE HECK IS THIS BLATANT PERV?!

HE BEAT SUPER-PERV?

.....

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